



**FY 2026-27**  
**Budget Workshop**

**Raymond A. Buenaventura**  
**PUBLIC DEFENDER**

# DEPARTMENT OVERVIEW

“The Public Defender’s Office ensures the protection of constitutional rights through effective and efficient legal representation, while working collaboratively to support stronger individuals, families, and communities across Monterey County.”

- PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
- DELIVER HIGH QUALITY LEGAL REPRESENTATION
- STRENGTHEN ATTORNEY -CLIENT RELATIONSHIPS
- PARTNER WITH COMMUNITY & PUBLIC SAFETY



# CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED SERVICES

Death Penalty Cases

Felonies

Misdemeanors

Juvenile

Probate

PRCS/Parole Violation  
Prison Crimes

DUI/Drug Court

Mental Health Diversion

Litigation/New Legislation

Appeals

Conservatorships

Post Sentence Relief

Veterans Court



# CONSEQUENCES OF UNDERFUNDING

Wrongful Conviction

Increased Custody Time

Increased Pretrial Population

Reduced Access to Rehab Services

Increased Deportations

Unnecessary Separation of Families

Reduced Access to Post Sentence Relief

Reduced Employee Hire & Retention

# ATTORNEY WORKLOAD DISTRIBUTION

34.0 FTE

Arraignment 1.0 FTE  
Immigration 1.0 FTE

Post Sentence 1.0 FTE  
Post Conviction 1.0 FTE

Mental Health 1.5 FTE

Early Resolution 2.0 FTE  
Racial Justice 2.0 FTE

Juvenile 3.0 FTE

Misdemeanor 6.0 FTE

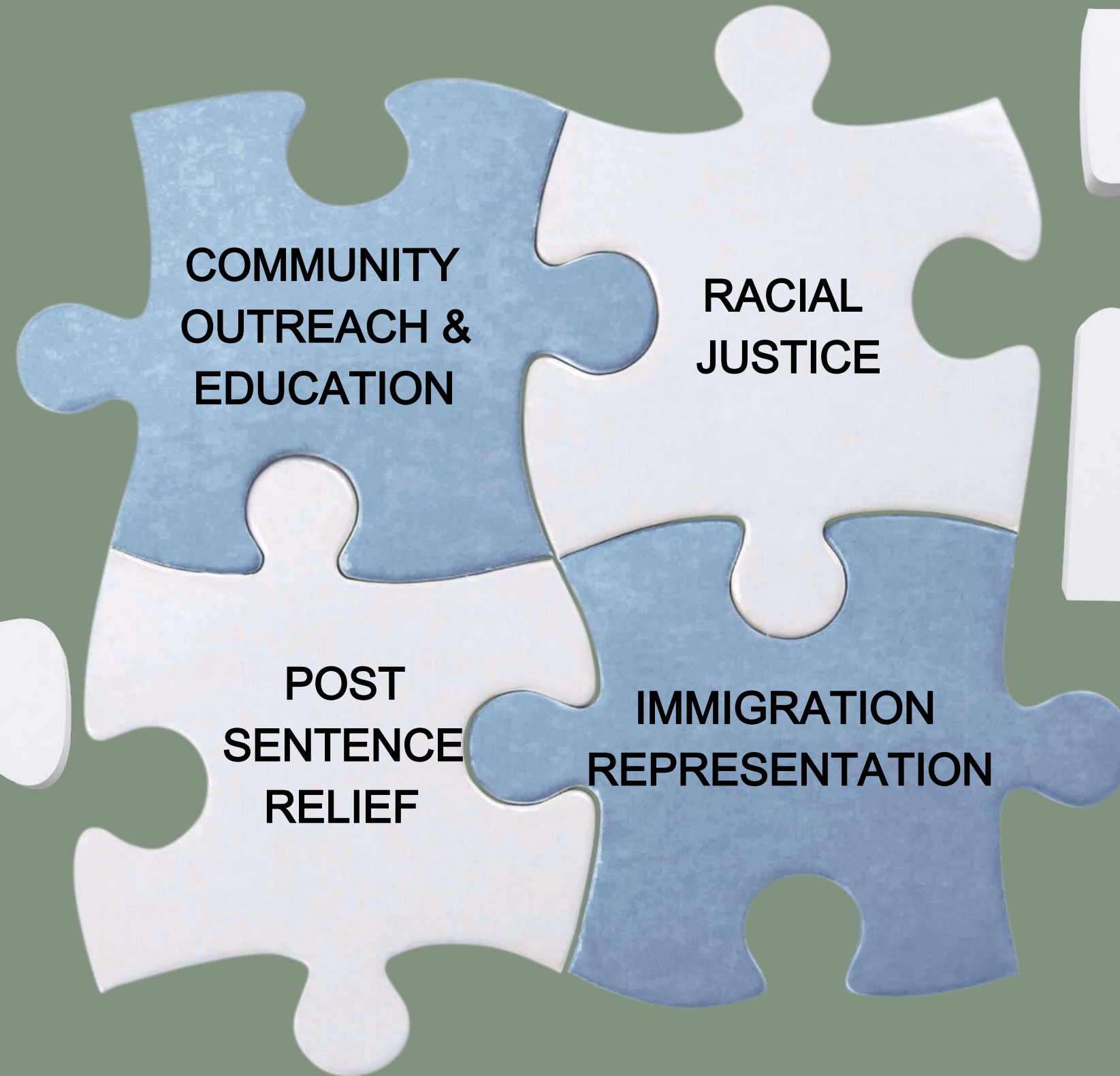
Felony 15.5 FTE



# HOLISTIC DEFENSE



MEDITATION  
SECONDARY  
TRAUMA  
RESPITE



COMMUNITY  
OUTREACH &  
EDUCATION

RACIAL  
JUSTICE

POST  
SENTENCE  
RELIEF

IMMIGRATION  
REPRESENTATION



SOCIAL  
WORK

# SERVING & STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



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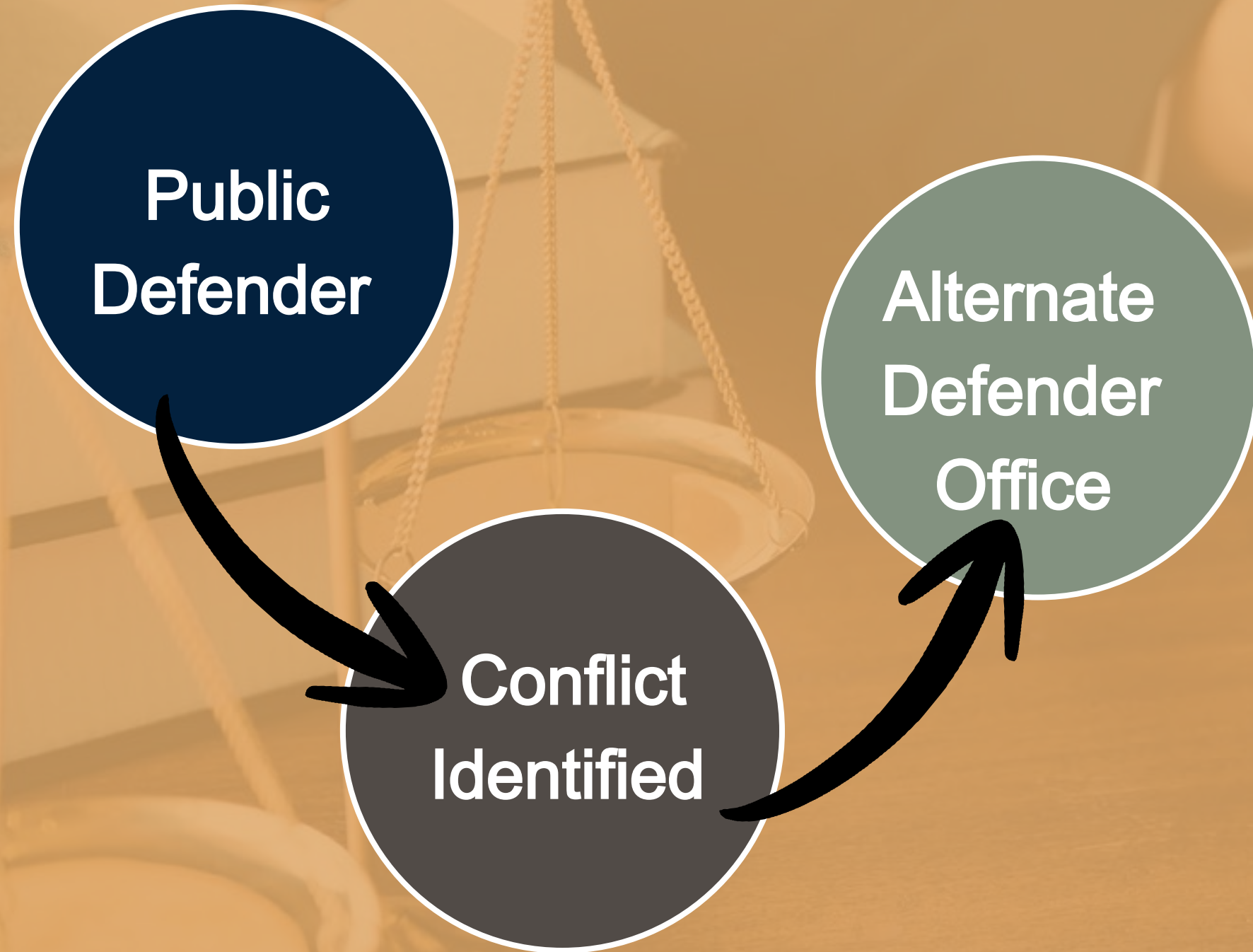


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# INDIGENT DEFENSE FLOW



**"The Alternate Defender Office ensures that even when conflicts arise, we continue to meet the constitutional obligation to provide defense"**

# AUGMENTATIONS (RESTORED)

Public Defender Office  
(Filled)

4.0 FTE Deputy Public Defender IV  
1.0 FTE Public Defender Investigator III  
1.0 FTE Legal Secretary II

**\$1,551,103**

Alternate Defender Office

Trial Related Expenses

**\$ 390,183**

# ADDITIONAL REQUEST

NOT Included in Augmentations

Public Defender Office  
**\$249,590**

This request is for temporary attorneys and ancillary trial related expenses.



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**THANK YOU!**