

May 27, 2026
Item No: 8



FY 2026-27 Budget Hearings

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

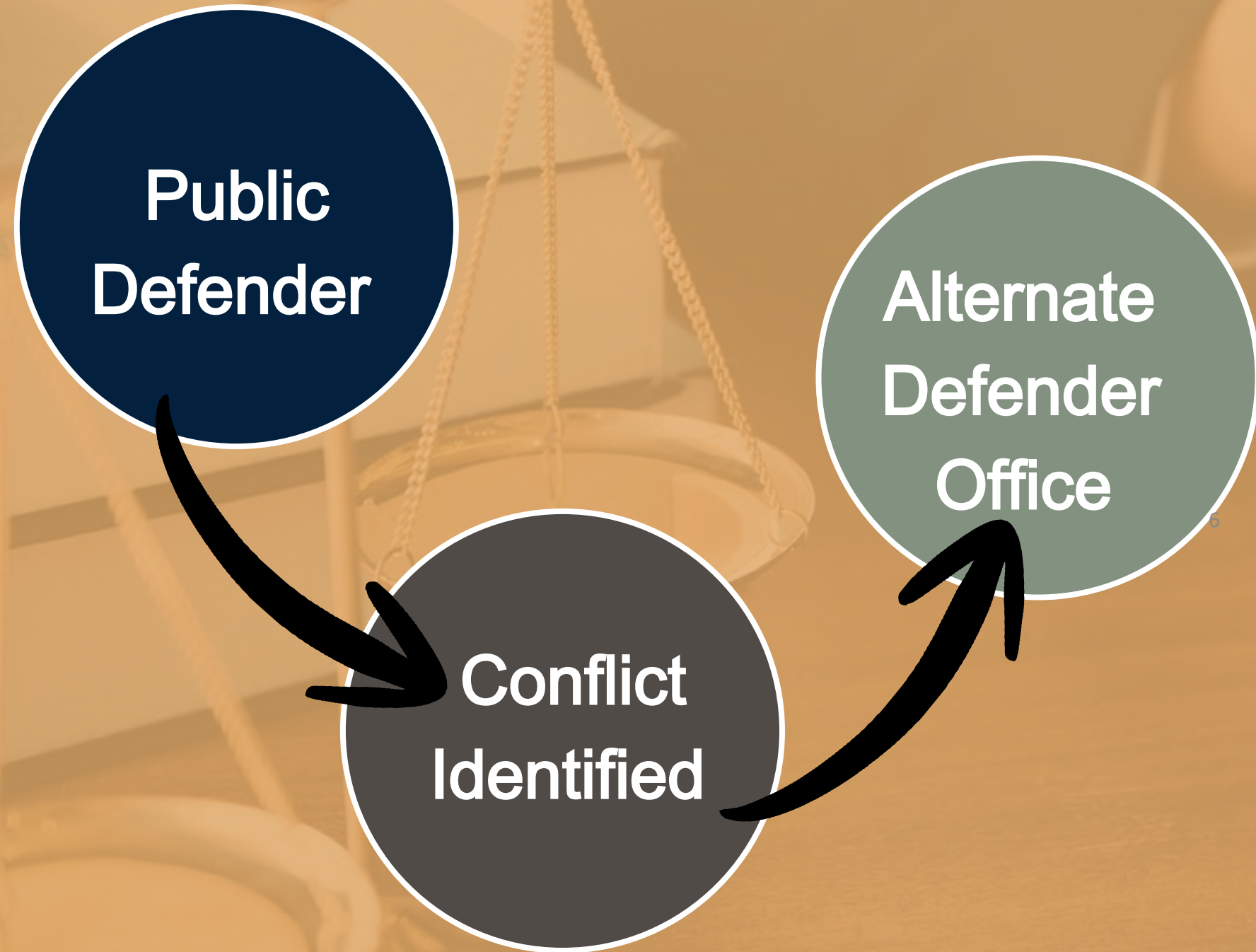
Juvenile 3.0 FTE

Misdemeanor 6.0 FTE

Felony 15.5 FTE



INDIGENT DEFENSE FLOW

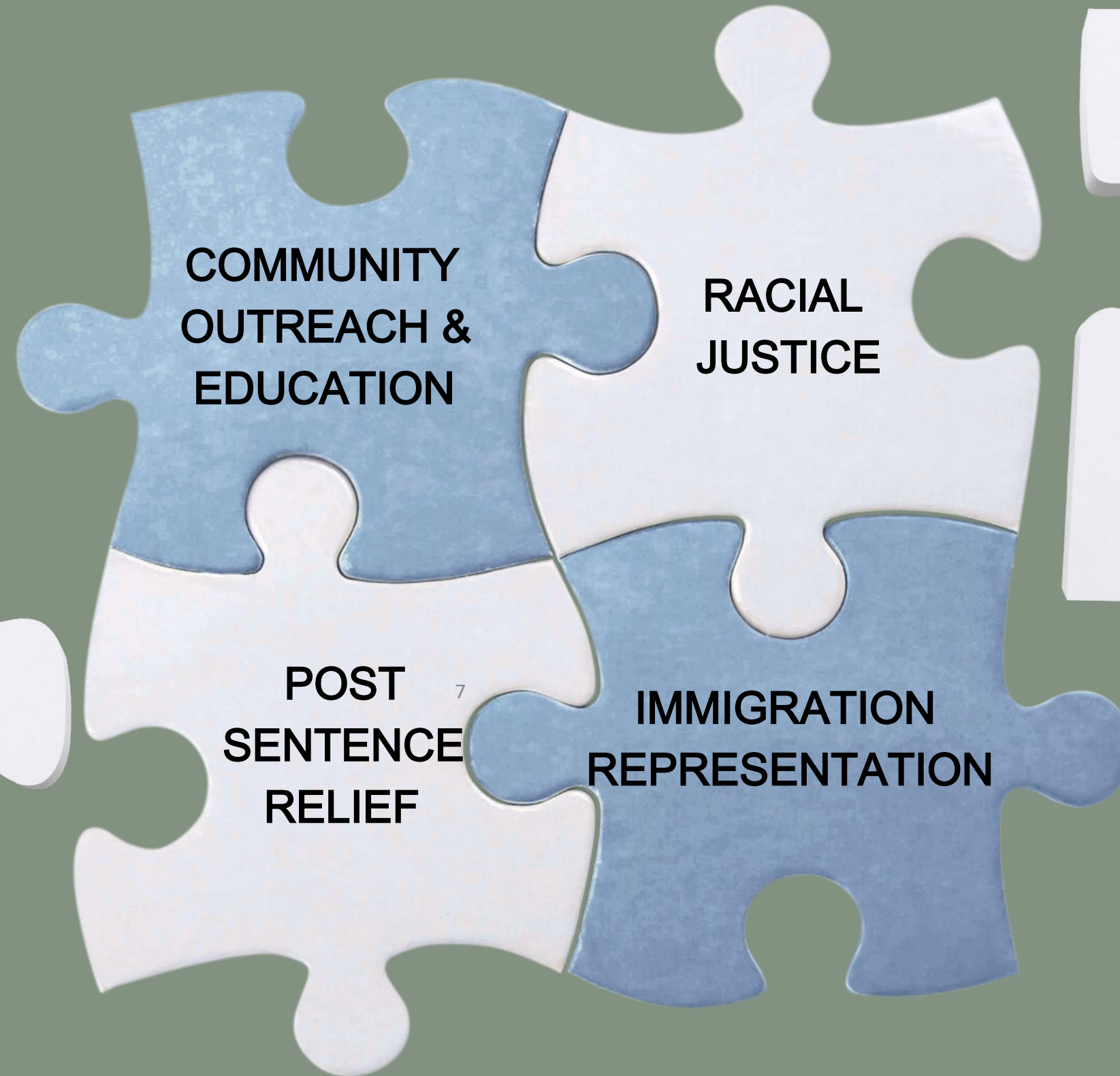


“The Alternate Defender Office ensures that even when conflicts arise, we continue to meet the constitutional obligation to provide defense”

HOLISTIC DEFENSE



MEDITATION
SECONDARY
TRAUMA
RESPITE



SOCIAL
WORK

SERVING & STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY



M



C



P



D

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 REQUESTS

NOT Included in Augmentations

#1

\$249,590

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

#2

\$250,000

This request addresses increased ICE-related contacts to ensure vulnerable clients receive proper legal advisements.

Public Defender Office

TO TAL REQUEST

\$499,590



Raymond A. Buenaventura

BuenaventuraRA@countyofmonterey.gov

(831) 755-5058



THANK YOU!