

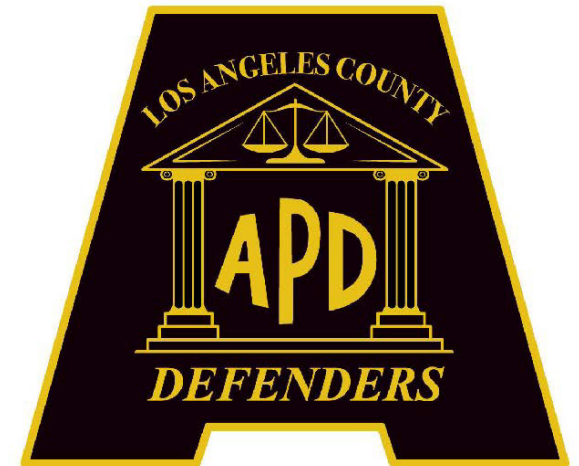
Law Offices of the Alternate Public Defender

MISSION

To provide high quality and caring legal representation to indigent persons charged with a crime when a conflict of interest prevents the Public Defender from providing required legal services and to represent clients in appellate courts as required.

MANDATORY & MAJOR DUTIES

- **Adult Defense:** Represent indigent adults charged with felony and misdemeanor offenses.
- **Youth Defense:** Represent indigent youths charged with felony, misdemeanor and truancy offence in juvenile delinquency courts. Also provides post-dispositional services.
- **Adult Diversion:** Diverts eligible clients into alternatives to incarceration focused on mental health and other conditions.
- **Immigration and Post-Conviction Defense:** Legislatively mandated legal issues.



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CURRENT BUDGET OVERVIEW

FY 2025-2026
Final Adopted Budget
(\$ Millions)

Total Appropriation

(What We Budgeted to Spend in FY 2025-26)

\$106.8



Salaries & Employee Benefits (356 positions)

100.7 94%



Services & Supplies

4.3 4%



Other (Cap Assets/Equip, Other Charges)

1.8 2%

Sources of Funding

(How We Pay For All of This)

\$106.8



Federal Assistance

0.2 <1%



State Assistance

12.0 11%



Fees/Charges for Services*

0.1 <1%



Other Resources**

3.4 3%



Net County Cost

remaining balance, covered by locally generated revenues

91.2 85%

* Some State and Federally funded services are reflected as "Fees/Charges for Services" through reimbursement mechanisms (e.g., Medi-Cal billing)

** "Other Resources" includes miscellaneous revenues not otherwise classified, including fines, settlements, interest earnings, and interdepartmental billing

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BUDGET BREAKDOWN BY PROGRAM AREA

What These Investments Deliver For Residents

General Program Category	% of Dept Budget
Defense of Adults (Misdemeanor and Felony Defense)	80%
Defense of Youths (Delinquency Defense)	9%
Diversion Programs (Opioid, Mental Heath, ODR)	3%
Other Legal Services (Immigration)	1%
Administrative Services	7%

Program categories shown here are presentation-level groupings created to consolidate information from the new LA County Enterprise System (LACES) for this briefing. Note that as part of the County’s initial rollout of data-driven budgeting through LACES, categories and outcome measures will continue to evolve based on practical use and data insights as departments operationalize the system in FY 2026–27.



DEPARTMENT PRIORITIES, METRICS & OUTCOMES

- Provide effective representation to County residents unable to afford legal defense services.
- Minimize the County's use of private indigent defense services.
- Handle 1/3 of the cases that come through the criminal courts.
- Advocate for alternatives to incarceration, including diversion into mental health and substance abuse programs.
- Represent new and former clients on post-conviction matters, as required by changes in State law.
- Outreach and recruit the next generation of attorneys and staff that will be best suited to represent the County's indigent population.

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BUDGET REQUEST (FY2026-2027)

Total New Appropriation Request*	\$11.2M
Additional positions requested	21.0
Additional NCC requested**	\$12.6

Key Budget Requests	Amount (\$Millions)	One-Time/ Ongoing?	Positions
Increase in Felony and Misdemeanor Cases	\$4.9	Ongoing	15.0
West Covina Satellite to Branch	\$1.1	Ongoing	3.0
Defense of Youth Team Leaders (Position Swap)	\$0.2	Ongoing	0.0
Mental Health Diversion – (San Fernando- PSW)	\$0.4	Ongoing	2.0

* Priority budget and unmet needs requests

** Includes \$1.5 million revenue backfill request



CHALLENGES & MITIGATION STRATEGIES

- Main challenge is handling more cases with less attorneys.
 - FY 2025-26 curtailments of 13 attorneys diminished APD's ability to appropriately hire and staff our branches throughout the County.
 - In 2025, APD saw a 23% jump in misdemeanor cases and 14% jump in felony cases and expected to continue in 2026.
 - Increasing criminal filings in serious and complex cases, including Death Penalty cases, due to new DA administration and Prop. 36.
 - Loss of grant funding will impact post-conviction services.
- These trends forced APD to declare it was unavailable to accept murder cases.
- Capacity limits shift costs to contracted conflict counsel (IDCO).