

**Office of Chief Public Defender
State of Connecticut**

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Senator Edwin A. Gomes, Co-Chair
Representative Toni E. Walker, Co-Chair
Appropriations -Judicial and Corrections Subcommittee

February 21, 2008

Dear Senator Gomes, Representative Walker and Appropriation Subcommittee Members:

Per the request of the Appropriations Committee, The Office of Chief Public Defender is submitting a Revised Mid-term Budget Request for Expansion Options for the Public Defender Services Commission.

This Office's revised request includes the 5 public defender social worker positions from our original mid-term budget request as well as more staff positions and resources that are necessary to respond to the increased representational demands of **PA 08-01, *An Act Concerning Criminal Justice Reform***. We have growing concerns regarding our ability to provide competent and constitutionally mandated representation for indigent clients in light of the reforms passed in the recent Special Session.

The numbers indicated below include our mid-term budget request for 5 social workers and additional staffing necessary due to passage of PA 08-01 pursuant to the Appropriation Committee's request. **These numbers do not reflect and would not be sufficient to meet the increased caseload demands should 3-Strikes legislation be passed. Furthermore, the numbers indicated below do not reflect staffing increases for Raise the Age.** Thank you in advance for consideration of these proposals.

		Annual	Total PS	OE	Total PS & OE
10 DAPDs	SG 1	60,096	600,960	30,048	
7 APDS	SG 5	73,119	511,833	25,592	
3 Investigator I	SG 18	50,067	150,201	7,510	
2 Investigator II	SG 20	55,213	110,426	5,521	
5 social workers	SG 19	48,923	244,615	12,230	
<u>5 clerical</u>	SG 13	39,668	<u>198,340</u>	<u>9,918</u>	
32 positions			1,816,375	90,819	1,907,194

All salaries are based on a 3% COLA for FY09 per BU contracts.

Equipment Costs for 32 positions

96,000

Training

9,600

2,012,794

Mid-Term Request-Social Workers

5 Social Worker positions:

- This proposal was included in the Request for Mid-Term Budget Expansion Options but was not included in the Governor's Budget.
- Additional social work staff for those GA courts with the highest caseloads of defendants who cannot make bond and who are considered by the court to be eligible for diversion or treatment programs.
- The Public Defender Offices are the major source of referrals to CSSD Jail Reinterview and DMHAS Mental Health Diversion Programs and collaborate with DOC, DCF, Parole, and all other related criminal justice agencies.
- Social Workers are also important to assist attorneys with clients who have a right to counsel at Pre-Sentence Investigations (PSI) which have increased dramatically as a result of the recent Parole reforms.
- These 5 positions were recommended by both the Governor's Task Force on Parole and the CJPAC Subcommittee on Prison Overcrowding.

New Requests due to PA 08-01

10 Deputy Assistant Public Defender positions:

- 6 DAPDs for GA offices which exceed the caseload goals established to the settlement agreement in Rivera v. Rowland. These offices also have the highest percentage of serious felony cases. FY 2006-07 statistics indicate these offices were Hartford GA14, New Haven GA23, Waterbury GA4, Danbury GA3(includes juvenile), Manchester GA12, and Norwich GA21.
- 3 DAPDs for GA offices with DV dockets that have received no additional staff. These are New London GA10, New Britain GA15, Norwalk GA20.
- 1 DAPD for Habeas Corpus Unit –Assignment of counsel is substantially delayed due to high caseloads of attorneys.

7 Assistant Public Defender positions:

- 6 APDs for JD offices with high rate of homicide, capital cases, and imbalanced attorney and support staff ratio compared to prosecutor offices which negatively impacts constitutionally mandated representation. These offices are Hartford, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Haven, Stamford, and Litchfield
- 1 APD- for Appellate Office –Increase in Capital appeals for clients sentenced to death.

4 Investigator I positions:

- 4 investigators to assist attorneys with increased caseloads and/or DV dockets in New London GA10, Bridgeport GA2, Stamford GA1, Ansonia-Milford GA22

2 Investigator II positions:

- 2 investigators to assist attorneys at Hartford JD and Waterbury JD with high numbers of murder and capital felony trials

5 clerical positions:

- OCPD, Hartford, Manchester, New Haven, Waterbury

Sincerely,

Susan O. Storey
Chief Public Defender