



# OFFICE OF THE ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Office of the Alternate Public Defender (APD) was created by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) in 1993 to provide high quality and caring legal representation to indigent persons charged with crimes in Los Angeles County criminal courts where the Public Defender declared a conflict of interest.

## **REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENT ADULTS**

The APD provides high level and cost-effective representation in all Los Angeles County criminal courts.

The APD represents indigent clients charged with misdemeanor, felony, and mental health court cases. The APD also handles pre-judgment writs and appeals and limited post-conviction matters.

The APD currently employs 301 full time employees including attorneys, paralegals, investigators, psychiatric social workers, IT workers and secretarial staff.

## **Adult Specialty Courts**

The APD participates in a wide variety of specialty courts including: The Community Collaborative Courts, Woman's Re-Entry Court, Veterans Court, Co-Occurring Disorders Court, Sentenced Offender Drug Court (SODC), Mental Health Court, Department of Health Services (DHS) and Office of Diversion and Re-entry (ODR) Pre- Plea Mental Health Diversion Court, ODR Post-Plea Diversion Courts, ODR Maternal Diversion Court, LGBTQ-Plus Court, MacArthur AB1810 Diversion Pilot, Bail Project, Bail Reform Pilot Project, Homeless Courts, and Transitional Aged Youth Diversion Court.

## **Justice Partner Collaborations**

The APD also participates in a variety of inter-agency collaborations and BOS sponsored committees including: Bail Reform, ODR Steering Committee, Department 95 Stakeholder Meetings, Diversion Outreach and Opportunities for Recovery (LA DOOR), Felony Incompetent to Stand Trial Program (FIST), Misdemeanor Incompetent to Stand Trial Program (MIST), Mental Health Advisory Meeting, Mental Health Court Think Tank, Homeless Initiative, Immigration Deferred Action Task Force, Immigration Protection and Advancement Taskforce (IPAA), County Counsel Immigration Task, Force, Office of Immigrant Affairs Committee, and Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD), Medication for Addiction Treatment Work Group (MAT), Public Safety Realignment Team (PSRT), Jail Depopulation Review Council, Men's County Jail Closure Workgroup and Alternatives to Incarceration (ATI) and consults with the CEO's Legislative Affairs and Intergovernmental Relations Office on key legislation affecting the criminal justice system.

## **REPRESENTATION OF CHILDREN IN THE JUVENILE JUSTICE SYSTEM**

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (BOS) ordered that the APD begin representing children in all



Los Angeles Delinquency Courts by November 1, 2016.

The APD currently staffs every delinquency court in Los Angeles county and represents children in pre- and post-dispositional matters including WIC 601, 602 and WIC 777-779 petitions, AB 12/212 matters, transfer cases, educational law matters, school disciplinary hearings, individualized education plans (IEPS), competency proceedings and Regional Center referrals.

### **Juvenile Specialty Courts**

The APD staffs and participates in all delinquency court specialty programs including: 241.1 pilot project, Juvenile Mental Health Court, Department of Juvenile Justice Return Court (DJJ), Juvenile Drug Courts, and Succeeding Through Achievement and Resilience Court (STAR).

### **Juvenile Justice Partner Collaborations**

In addition, the APD participates in a variety of juvenile justice related committees and BOS directed collaborations including: 241.1 Subcommittee, Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Steering Committee (CSEC), CSEC Probation Reform and Implementation Team, Delinquency Prevention Subcommittee, Juvenile Competency Protocol Committee, ODR Juvenile Subcommittee, Probation Commission Meetings, Probation Governance Study Committee, Probation Workgroup Committee, Juvenile Roundtable Meeting, Psychotropic Medication Workgroup, Victim Witness Testimony Protocol Committee (VWT), VWT Immunity Agreement Subcommittee, Youth Diversion and Development Subcommittee, Youth Justice Work Group (YJWG), DJJ Transition Team, Dual-Status Multi-Disciplinary Team, and Maintaining the Decreased Population of Incarcerated Youth Work Group and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC). The APD also provides input to state, county, advocacy group and community based partners on pending juvenile legislation.

### **Best Practices**

APD adheres to the Holistic Representation model as the guiding principle of its delinquency operation. The Holistic Representation model focuses not just on the child's legal case, but on the "root" causes of the child's legal predicament. The Holistic Representation model emphasizes that until "root" causes are identified; the child's long-term well-being cannot be addressed.

### **Interdisciplinary Team Approach**

APD's Juvenile Division utilizes psychiatric social workers, educational rights attorneys, immigration attorneys, and paralegals who, along with our trial attorneys, and appellate department, make up the core of our holistic interdisciplinary team. This team works alongside parents, experts, community members, probation, and others, to uncover psychological, social, biological or other factors impacting the child, and allows us to provide independent treatment options and dispositional alternatives to the court. The interdisciplinary team approach reduces incarceration and helps develop long term solutions for our vulnerable client base.