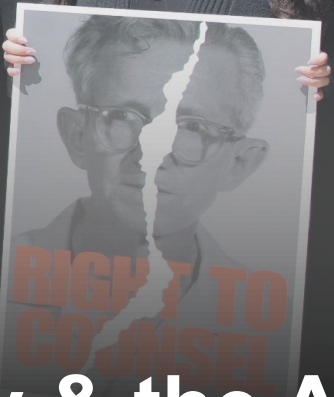
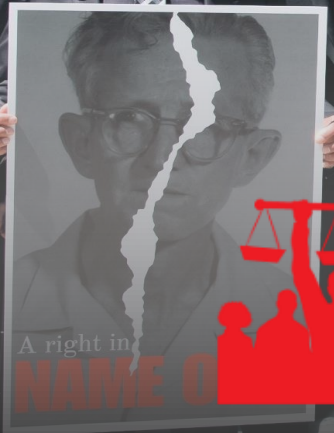


5149

5151



ALAMEDA COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDERS

National Public Defense Workload Study & the AB 625 California Public Defense Workloads & Staffing Report

May 21, 2026

Presented by: Brendon D. Woods, Public Defender

PROCESS FOR ASSIGNING CASE TYPES



Arrested



Charged

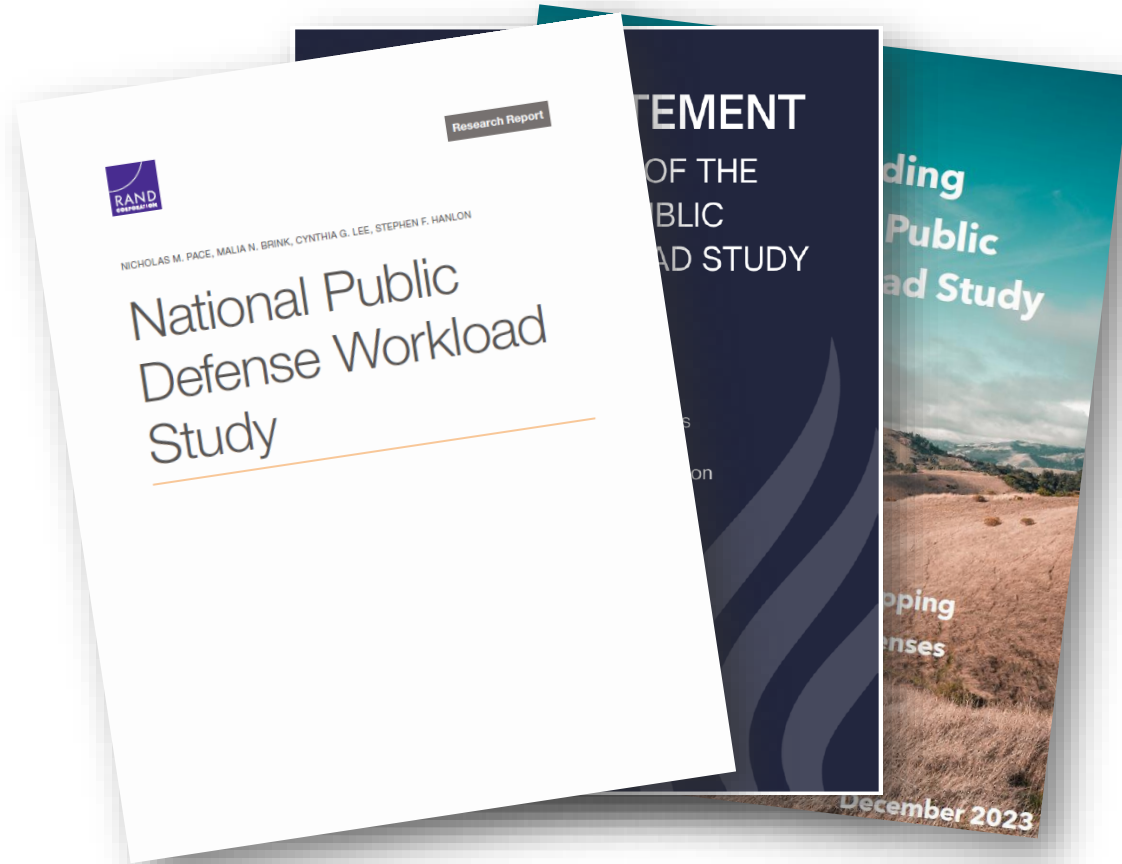


Arraignment



Assignment

NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENSE WORKLOAD STUDY



- Our office would need **104 additional attorneys** to satisfy the workload guidelines, assuming our attorneys worked 2,080 hours a year, not accounting for holidays or vacations.
- 104 Deputy Public Defenders would be **\$39.5 million dollars**.
- The District Attorney's budget would still be slightly larger than the Public Defender's budget.

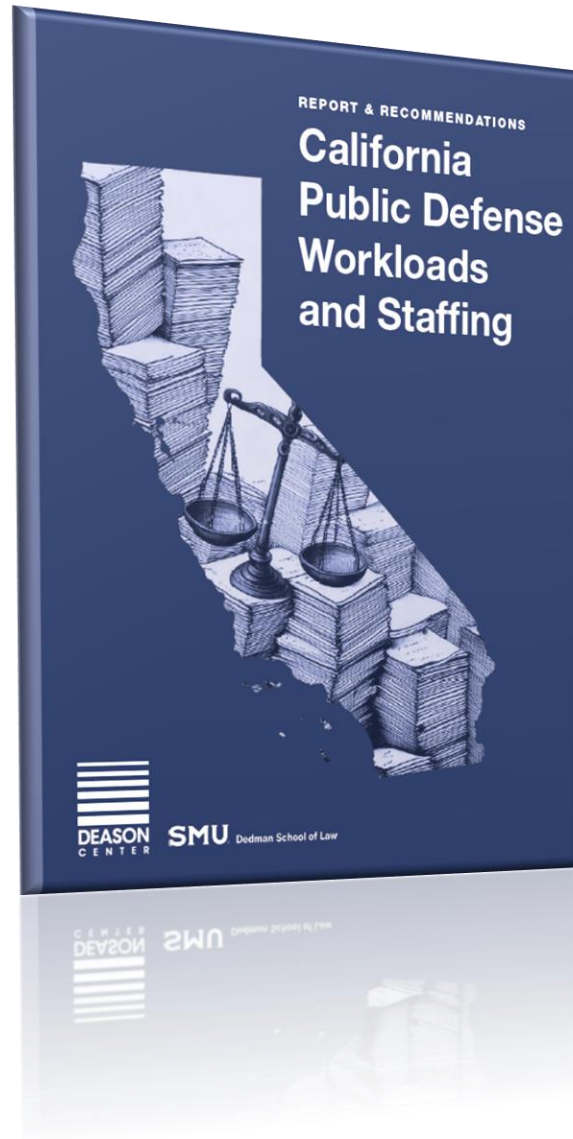


NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENSE WORKLOAD STUDY



If conservatively applied to Alameda County's current practice, we would need an additional **75 attorneys.**

AB 625



AB 625 Recommendations:

2 Attorneys : 1 Investigator

3 Attorneys : 1 Social worker

4 Attorneys : 1 Paralegal

4 Attorneys : 1 Administrative Staff
(legal secretary/clerk)



Current Staffing Levels

129 Attorneys

22 Social Works/Advocates

19 Investigators

31 Support Staff



According to AB 625 recommendations, we are short...

45	Investigators
21	Social Workers
32	Paralegals
1	Admin Staff

National Public Defense Workload Study Case Types

Case Type	Description	Sentencing Range	Examples
01: Felony-High-LWOP	Felonies with possible sentences of LWOP	LWOP	Special circumstances murder, one strike sex law
02: Felony-High-Murder	Non-LWOP felonies involving intentional killing of a person	Up to life with possibility of parole	First-degree murder, malice murder, second-degree murder, felony murder
03: Felony-High-Sex	Non-LWOP felonies involving serious sex offenses	More than 15 years (including life with possibility of parole)	Rape, aggravated sexual assault, child sex abuse, child pornography with victim
04: Felony-High-Other	Non-LWOP felonies (including DUIs resulting in death) other than charges falling into the high felony categories for murder or serious sex offenses	More than 15 years (including life with possibility of parole)	Negligent homicide, manslaughter, aggravated assault, assault with a deadly weapon, kidnapping
05: Felony-Mid	Felonies (including DUIs resulting in death) including serious property crimes, serious drug distribution crimes, and less serious violent crimes	Possible sentences of 3 to 15 years (includes felonies that have 2/3/4 triad)	Arson, armed robbery, grand theft, breaking and entering, drug distribution or manufacturing, battery
06: Felony-Low	Felonies (including DUIs resulting in death) including less serious property crimes, less serious drug felonies, and minor crimes of violence	Possible sentences of up to 3 years (16/2/3 triad)	Theft, larceny, burglary, simple assault
07: DUI-High	Repeat DUIs, serious DUIs, and DUIs causing nonfatal injuries (can be a felony or misdemeanor)	Possible sentences of more than 2 years	
08: DUI-Low	First or successive DUIs (typically misdemeanors)	Possible sentences of up to 3 years	
09: Misdemeanor-High	Serious misdemeanors (other than DUIs) involving enhanceable misdemeanors (such as misdemeanors triggering repeat offender sentencing), sex misdemeanors, or violent misdemeanors	Any	Domestic violence, misdemeanor assault, misdemeanor animal cruelty, exposure
10: Misdemeanor-Low	Less serious misdemeanors (other than DUIs or those falling into the high misdemeanor category)	Any	Petty theft, drug possession, drug paraphernalia, trespass, status offenses, criminal traffic offenses
11: Probation or Parole Violations	Probation or parole violations derived from either felony or misdemeanor offenses	Any	

National Public Defense Workload Study:

Case Type	Case Weight (Hours per Case)	Annual Caseload Standard
Felony-High-LWOP	286.0	7
Felony-High-Murder	248.0	8
Felony-High-Sex	167.0	12
Felony-High-Other	99.0	21
Felony-Mid	57.0	36
Felony-Low	35.0	59
DUI-High	33.0	63
DUI-Low	19.0	109
Misdemeanor-High	22.3	93
Misdemeanor-Low	13.8	150
Probation/Parole Violations	13.5	154

NOTE: Annual caseload standards were calculated using an assumption of 2,080 hours available annually to a defender for case-related work.

NPDWS STAFFING REQUEST



6 Attorneys

3 Investigators

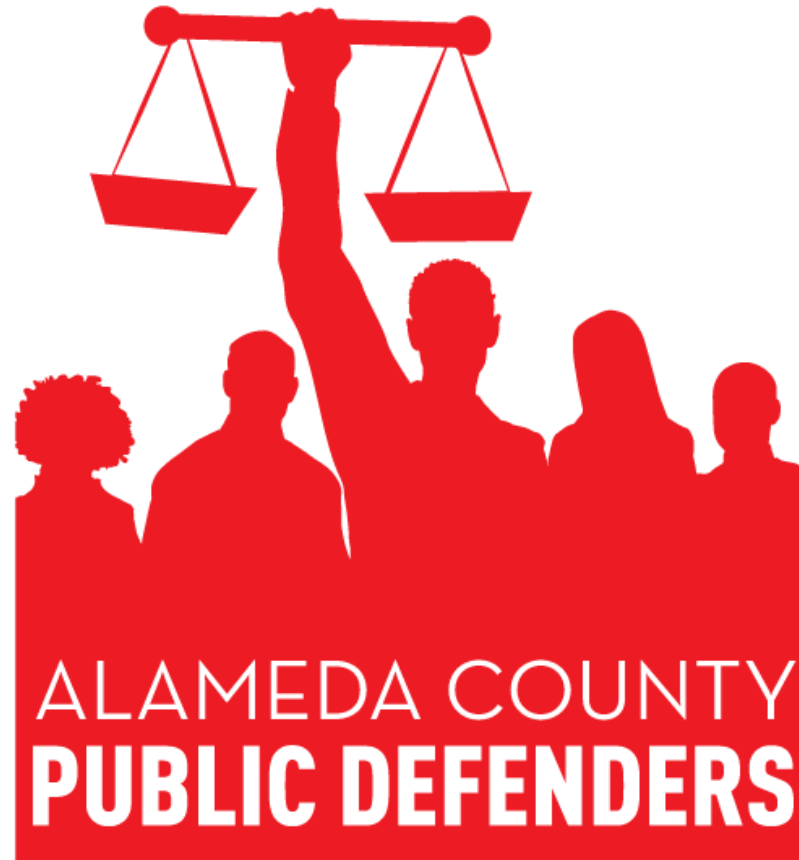
2 Social Workers

1 Legal Secretary

Total Cost: \$3,707,650

Over the next 4 fiscal years

Thank You & Questions



publicdefender.acgov.org

