



HON. DANIEL P. MCCOY
ALBANY COUNTY EXECUTIVE

COUNTY OF ALBANY
OFFICE OF THE ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER
112 STATE STREET, SUITE 720
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12207
(518) 447-5532 FAX: (518) 447-7416
WWW.ALBANYCOUNTY.COM

TINA K. SODHI, ESQ.
ALTERNATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

Honorable Wanda F. Willingham, Chair
Albany County Legislature
Audit and Finance Committee
112 State Street, Room 710
Albany, New York 12207

- 1. Identify department representative appearing before the Audit and Finance Committee for your agency budget presentation.**
 - a. Tina K. Sodhi, Esq. (Alternate Public Defender)
- 2. Identify by line item all vacant positions in your department.**
 - a. As of October 16th, 2025, the Alternate Public Defender's Office has three vacant positions.
 - i. A1171 12064 670041- Assistant Alternate PD VI
 - ii. A1171 12062 670035 - Assistant Alternate PD IV - Family Court
 - iii. A1171 12151F- Family Court Caseworker
- 3. Identify by line item any new position(s), how the position(s) will be funded and the reimbursement rate(s), if applicable.**
 - a. A1171 12062 670028 - Assistant Alternate PD IV (Criminal Court) - 100% State funded by the Office of Indigent Legal Services.
 - b. A1171 12062 670029 - Assistant Alternate PD IV (Criminal Court) – 100% State funded by the Office of Indigent Legal Services
 - c. A1171 12285 - Case manager– 100% State funded by the Office of Indigent Legal Services
- 4. Identify by line item any proposed salary increase(s) beyond union contract commitments. Include justifications for those raise(s).**

Line	Title	Current Salary	Proposed Salary	Justification
A1171 11044	Alt. PD	\$127,691	\$155,000	Parity amongst 2 defense offices, based on experience and work

				performed
A1171 12063 670036	Asst. Alt. PD V	\$111,577	\$117,499	Family Ct. Supervisor w/ 15 years of experience
A1171 12063 670037	Asst. Alt PD V	\$110,665	\$117,499	15+ years of experience
A1171 12061 670027	Asst. Alt. PD III	\$95,581	\$102,500	3-5 years of experience
A1171 12063 670038	Asst. Alt. PD V	\$110,516	\$117,499	15+ years of experience
A1171 12063 670039	Asst. Alt PD V	\$110,516	\$117,499	15+ years of experience
A1171 12062 670030	Asst. Alt PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 12062 670031	Asst. Alt. PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 12063 670040	Asst. Alt. PD V	\$110,516	\$117,499	15 years of experience
A1171 12062 670032	Asst. Alt PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 12062 670033	Asst. Alt. PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 12064 670041	Asst. Alt. PD VI	\$113,623	\$122,500	Special Counsel to Alt. PD and Appellate Atty.
A1171 12062 670034	Asst. Alt. PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 12062 670035	Asst. Alt. PD IV	\$103,354	\$110,000	6-10 years of experience
A1171 15025	Legal Secretary	\$58,195	\$65,000	Commensurate with experience and duties performed
A1171 16401	Confidential Secretary	\$58,195	\$65,000	Commensurate with experience and duties performed
A1171 16401	Confidential Secretary	\$58,195	\$65,000	Commensurate with experience and duties performed

5. Identify by line item any position proposed to be eliminated or salary decreased.

a. n/a

6. Identify by line item all positions that are funded by grant money, the percentage of funding provided by the grant and indicate whether there is a commitment that the grant has been renewed for 2026.

a. A1171 11044– Alternate Public Defender – this position is 8.6% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services and the funding will continue until March 31, 2027.

- b. A1171 12063 670036 – Assistant Alternate PD V – this position is 5% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services and funding will continue until December 31, 2028.
- c. A1171 12063 670037 – Assistant Alternate PD V- this position 37.6% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- d. A1171 12061 670027 – Assistant Alternate PD III – this position is 100% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services Fund and the funding will continue until December 31, 2028.
- e. A1171 12063 670038 – Assistant Alternate PD V – this position is 37.6% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- f. A1171 12063 670039- Assistant Alternate PD V – this position is 100% grant funded by Statewide Implementation Funds and the funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- g. A1171 12062 670030– Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 100% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services Fund and funding will continue for next year December 31, 2028.
- h. A1171 12062 670031 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 33.3% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- i. A1171 12063 670040 – Assistant Alternate PD V - this position is 37.6% grant funded by Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- j. A1171 12062 670032 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 33.3% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- k. A1171 12062 670033 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 100% grant funded by Indigent Legal Services Fund and funding will continue until December 31, 2028.
- l. A1171 12064 670041 – Assistant Alternate PD VI – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- m. A1171 12062 670034 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
- n. A1171 12062 670035 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 6% grant funded by the Indigent Legal Services Fund and funding will continue until December 31, 2028.
- o. A1171 12151F– Family Court Caseworker - this position is 100% grant funded by the Upstate Family Defense Funds and funding will continue until December 31, 2025.
- p. A1171 14013– Criminal Investigator – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.

- q. A1171 15025– Legal Secretary – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
 - r. A1171 12285 – Case Manager – this position is 100% granted funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
 - s. A1171 16401 - Confidential Secretary – this position is 31.5% by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
 - t. A1171 16401– Confidential Secretary – this position is 100% grant funding by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
 - u. A1171 12062 670028 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
 - v. A1171 12062 670029 – Assistant Alternate PD IV – this position is 100% grant funded by the Statewide Implementation Funds and funding will continue until March 31, 2027.
7. ***Identify by line item all job titles proposed to be changed or moved to another line item (e.g. reclassifications).***
- a. n/a.
8. ***Provide an itemized breakdown of specific expenditures regarding fees for services lines and miscellaneous contractual expense lines and indicate 2024 budgeted expenditures compared to 2025 proposed expenditures (included a column for each expenditure year).***

Contractual Expenses	2025 Exp Budget	2026 Prop. Budget	2025 Expenditures
Office Supplies	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$2,112.26
Postage	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$700.42
Client Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$168.36
Telephone	\$5,750	\$5,750	\$3,656.40
Insurance	\$8,798	\$9,168	\$9,167.66
Travel Mileage	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$1,600.17
Conferences/Training	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$1,817.53
Printing/Advertising	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$430.99
Fees for Services	\$25,500	\$26,500	\$313.41
Photocopier Lease	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,247.88
Investigative Services	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$0
Discovery/Storage	\$150,472	\$26,500	\$0
Specialized Services	\$62,000	\$55,000	\$11,522.60
Legal Reference	\$27,500	\$27,500	\$13,681.54
Association Dues	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$1775
DGS Shared Services	\$42,456	\$43,730	\$0

9. *Identify any new initiatives and/or eliminated programs, and reimbursements associated with those programs.*

- a. ILS is providing additional funding for 3 Assistant Alternate Public Defenders (2 for Criminal Court and 1 for Family Court), this will decrease the current caseloads of the attorneys that handle criminal matters and family matters. ILS is also providing funding for a Criminal Court Caseworker.

10. *Identify all County vehicles used by your department. Include the title of any employee(s) assigned each vehicle and the reason for the assignment of a County vehicle to that employee.*

- a. There are no county vehicles used by this department.

11. *Provide a specific breakdown of the use for the proposed funding for all Conferences/Training/Tuition line items in your department.*

- a. As of October 16th, 2025, \$1817.53 been utilized for Conferences and Trainings.
- b. Attorneys attend various trainings through New York State Defender's Association, New York State Bar Association, Albany County Bar Association, and any other organization that offers Continued Legal Education credits to the attorneys. Attorneys are reimbursed for any trainings that they attend. All expenditures are reimbursed by Indigent Legal Services and conferences and trainings are highly recommended by the Office of Indigent Legal Services.

12. *Provide a specific breakdown of overtime line items in your department budget including the actual overtime expenditures for the previous two years.*

- a. There are no overtime lines in this department.

13. *Identify by line item any positions that were established/changed during the 2025 fiscal year.*

- a. n/a

14. *Please describe the biggest risk your department faces and the actions you have taken (or will take in 2026) to better understand that risk and mitigate it.*

- a. The greatest risk currently facing this department is the inability to recruit experienced attorneys. Due to recent increases in 18b rates and a general shortage of attorneys interested in public sector positions, filling vacancies has become extremely challenging. Although three additional attorney positions are budgeted for next year, it is unlikely these roles will be filled promptly. Additionally, there is a lack of interest in taking on the demanding and often difficult work that many attorneys in this office are required to do.

15. *Please list performance indicators and metrics used by your department and current statistics for those metrics.*

- a. The New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS) has established caseload standards, performance metrics, and expectations for all Public Defender Offices. Our office monitors caseloads through the Public Defense Case

Management System (PDCMS), and we submit regular reports and updates to ILS throughout the year to ensure compliance with the State's recommended caseload limits. All attorneys are required to attend ongoing training sessions annually. Performance is assessed based on several key indicators, including availability at arraignments, continuity of counsel, utilization of investigative and expert services, and the overall quality of representation. In support of these standards, ILS has provided — and will continue to provide — substantial funding to help ensure high-quality legal representation for our clients.

16. Note specifically all potential new unfunded mandates, regulations, risks to grant revenues, risks to reimbursement revenues, from any source.

- a. To date, there has been no indication of any potential funding reductions from the New York State Office of Indigent Legal Services (ILS). In fact, ILS is actively working to enhance the quality of representation in Family Court and is seeking additional funding from the State to support these improvements.