

District Attorney

Patrick McGrath - District Attorney

108-2500	FY 14/15 Adopted Budget	FY 15/16 CAO Recommended	Change
EXPENDITURES			
Salaries and Benefits	1,875,818	1,911,198	35,380
Services and Supplies	94,213	84,634	(9,579)
Other Charges	207,072	141,406	(65,666)
Fixed Assets	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	2,177,103	2,137,238	(39,865)
REVENUE			
Fed/State	226,374	232,474	6,100
Grant	13,500	13,500	0
Realignment	30,000	30,000	0
Fees/Misc	110,600	93,000	(17,600)
TOTAL REVENUE	380,474	368,974	(11,500)
FUND BALANCE	60,000	31,635	(28,365)
NET COUNTY COST	1,736,629	1,736,629	0

Program Description

The District Attorney is an elected, state Constitutional Officer whose responsibilities include prosecuting and investigating public criminal offenses, advising the Grand Jury, and representing the interests of the People of California in criminal justice matters.

The Yuba County District Attorney's office is currently allocated 17 positions: 11 prosecutor positions (including the District Attorney), 3 District Attorney Investigators, and 3 support persons. Due to funding limitations, two prosecutor positions and one Investigator position are unfunded and unfilled, leaving 9 prosecutor and 2 Investigator positions staffed.

All Yuba County prosecutors are extremely skilled, with an average of 17 years of prosecution experience, and have specialized

expertise in handling sexual assault, gang violence, major narcotic, and violent offenses. Every prosecutor has homicide case experience. On average, prosecutors will review over 4,000 investigations per year, submitted by local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Of these referrals, almost 2,900 criminal cases will be filed and presented in Yuba County courts.

Prosecutors are assisted by District Attorney Investigators, who are sworn peace officers acting as specialized detectives. DA Investigators have diverse duties, which range from conducting and analyzing complex criminal investigations to locating and securing the court attendance of uncooperative witnesses. The current DA Investigators

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are both highly specialized in the investigation of adult and child sexual assault crimes, and work as a team with other the officers of our local law enforcement agencies.

Both the prosecutors and DA Investigators are supported by legal office assistants. Their duties include inputting all case referrals into the case management system, preparing physical case files, copying and providing discovery to defense attorneys, preparing subpoenas and notifying witnesses of case status, and closing case files upon case completion.

Each year, the support staff handles approximately 20,000 phone calls, meets over 5,000 members of the public who enter the office seeking assistance, issue over 5,000 subpoenas for witness attendance, and “pull” files for over 20 court calendars during each week.

The support staff has previously been honored for exceptional teamwork and efficiency. It is the smallest – currently only 3 members – but arguably the most productive among the small county DA offices in California. Support staff in other comparably sized small counties range from 6 to 11 staff.

As with all public agencies, the Office has been faced with budgetary challenges over the past five years, which has reduced the office staffing levels by 25% and impacted all positions and levels of service.

Accomplishments FY 2014-2015

WORKLOAD MANAGEMENT

- 4,028 case reports were submitted for review and evaluation in CY 2014. The CY

2014 ratio of reports reviewed per prosecutor increased to 476:1 (prosecutor staffing level fell to 8 with the retirement of a senior DDA). The CY 2013 ratio was 442:1 and average for the prior 5 years was 410:1.

- 2,827 cases were filed with the court for prosecution, and overall filing rate of 70%. The CY 2014 ratio of cases per prosecutor increased to 334:1 (prosecutor staffing level fell to 8 with the retirement of a senior DDA). The CY 2013 ratio was 296:1 and average for the prior 5 years was 275:1.
- The recommended ratio for case review per prosecutor is 300:1. The recommended standard for cases per prosecutor is 200:1.
- 737 felony cases were filed in CY 2014. Case filing action was made within 15 working days in 85% of the referred cases.
- 610 felony cases were tracked to closure in CY 2014. Of these, 75% were completed within eight months. Convictions were obtained in 85% of cases, with 72% of those cases resulting in a conviction to a charged felony offense.
- Of the 610 closed cases, 30% (180) included charges classified as either serious or violent felonies, or involved defendants with a prior serious or violent felony offense. In areas of specialized prosecution, gang prosecutors initiated felony gang cases against 27 defendants. Child abuse prosecutors and DA Investigators conducted 100 child forensic interviews and reviewed 56 potential cases, and handled 42 filed cases.
- 2,090 misdemeanor cases were filed in CY 2014. Case filing action was made within 15 working days in 99% of the referred cases.
- 1,858 misdemeanor cases were tracked to closure in CY 2014. Of these, 77% of misdemeanor cases were completed within

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four months, and 91% of cases were completed within eight months. Convictions were obtained against 73% of misdemeanor defendants.

- Vertical prosecution – where one prosecutor handles a case from the start to the finish – is the gold standard of prosecution. Specialized vertical prosecution assignments continued in major narcotics, gang suppression, juvenile offenders, and child and adult sexual assault.

LEADERSHIP

- Vertical prosecutors and DA Investigators continued to provide specialized assistance to law enforcement officers investigating gang and child abuse cases.
 - The office continues to be a member agency of the California State Anti-Gang Intelligence Network, a group which includes federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. The network shares intelligence and reviews best practices relative to both street level and institutional gang investigations. Deputy District Attorney Mike Byrne serves on the Executive Steering Committee as the sole prosecution representative.
 - The office continued to co-chair the California District Attorney's Association statewide Training and Education Committee. The office also acted as the technical training advisor to statewide prosecutor trainings in felony sentencing, leadership / management, and search and seizure.
 - District Attorney Patrick McGrath was selected by the California District Attorney's Association to plan and coordinate a statewide orientation and leadership training in February 2015 for all newly elected California District Attorneys taking office in
- 2015. DA McGrath is a current officer of CDAA and has been selected to become the organization's President in July of 2015.
 - Legal Services Supervisor Tonya English serves on the Board of Directors of the SunGard Public Sector West Regional Training user's group. SunGard is the vendor chosen to provide the data management system linking the Superior Court, Probation Department, Sheriff's Office, Jail, and District Attorney's Office. The user's group coordinates training and proposes new applications and uses for the SunGard data management systems. Ms. English has been a Board member for 6 years.
 - The office continued to provide case review and assistance to military prosecutors at Beale Air Force Base assuming jurisdiction over local cases for prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Goals and Objectives FY 2015-2016

- The significant internal goals for FY 15/16 will be restoring and funding a Legal Office Assistant position which was vacated in April of 2012 and deleted in FY 13-14. The deletion reduced the legal support staff to 3 positions, and required the Legal Services Supervisor to assume the misdemeanor support duties normally handled by the deleted position. In CY 2014, this required her to input and prepare 2,090 misdemeanor case files in addition to her own supervision and administrative duties, impacting the efficiency of both.
- Providing comprehensive training to two new prosecutors who have recently passed the state bar and have joined the office. The positions were held by two

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senior prosecutors, one of whom has retired after 30 years of service and the other who has taken a senior position with Sacramento County after 16 years of service. These new prosecutors are the first new hires in over 8 years.

- Adapting to new case filing and sentencing practices resulting from the passage of Proposition 47.
- Update and refresh the Office Policy and Procedures manual.
- Update, as resources permit, the office web presence.
- The significant external goal will be to review and coordinate law enforcement policies regarding the anticipated use of body cameras.
- Secondary goals will be to: 1) complete a coordinated review with the Sutter County District Attorney's Office of officer involved critical incident procedures; and 2) continue law enforcement education regarding *Brady* discovery obligations and procedures.

Pending Issues/Policy Considerations FY 2015-2016

- The continued public safety impact of Proposition 47 on case filing and sentencing practices, offender supervision and treatment options, and investigative resources.
- Officer involved shooting/critical incident related legislation from the State legislature, including the investigation of prosecution review of critical incidents and the potential use of law enforcement body cameras.
- The institution of pre-trial release program to provide more jail capacity for offenders sentenced to local prison under Realignment.

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2012-2013	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2013-2014	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2014-2015	CAO RECOMMENDED
DISTRICT ATTORNEY					
Salaries & Benefits					
108-2500-421.01-01	REGULAR	1,409,807	1,456,989	1,404,362	1,430,716
108-2500-421.01-07	VACATION PAY	665	0	21,937	0
108-2500-421.01-08	SICK LEAVE	0	0	5,195	0
108-2500-421.02-02	CO SHARE PERS	206,730	223,182	230,369	253,993
108-2500-421.02-04	GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE	155,395	166,584	167,550	168,304
108-2500-421.02-05	MEDICARE	15,710	16,226	17,263	17,713
108-2500-421.02-06	WORKERS COMP INS	19,391	21,944	25,221	29,990
108-2500-421.02-07	LIFE INSURANCE	1,060	1,088	1,196	1,306
108-2500-421.02-08	UNEMPLOYMENT INS	6,078	6,348	0	6,098
108-2500-421.02-09	RETIREE HEALTHCARE INS	1,375	1,415	2,725	3,078
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*	Salaries & Benefits	1,816,211	1,893,776	1,875,818	1,911,198
Services & Supplies					
108-2500-421.12-00	COMMUNICATION	2,237	2,363	2,400	2,400
108-2500-421.15-00	INSURANCE	16,430	11,901	19,613	6,828
108-2500-421.16-00	PER DIEM FEES/MILEAGE	844	1,076	600	600
108-2500-421.17-00	MAINTENANCE/EQUIPMENT	16,159	23,212	25,071	26,736
108-2500-421.20-00	MEMBERSHIPS	6,490	7,435	6,490	6,490
108-2500-421.22-00	OFFICE EXPENSE	16,850	23,571	19,600	21,500
108-2500-421.23-00	PROFESSIONAL SERVICES	5,936	7,109	5,000	5,000
108-2500-421.28-00	SPECIAL DPMT EXPENSE	0	574	2,500	2,500
108-2500-421.29-00	TRAVEL	17,101	13,147	12,939	12,580
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*	Services & Supplies	82,047	90,388	94,213	84,634
Other Charges					
108-2500-421.53-01	A-87 CHARGES	168,035	197,217	224,710	150,406
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*	Other Charges	168,035	197,217	224,710	150,406

ACCOUNT NUMBER	ACCOUNT DESCRIPTION	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2012-2013	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES 2013-2014	ORIGINAL BUDGET 2014-2015	CAO RECOMMENDED
	Other Financing Uses				
108-2500-421.85-02	COMPENSATED ABSENCES	24,768	0	0	0
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*	Other Financing Uses	24,768	0	0	0
	Cost Reimbursements				
108-2500-421.90-00	REIMBURSEMENTS	37,013-	43,194-	17,638-	9,000-
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*	Cost Reimbursements	37,013-	43,194-	17,638-	9,000-
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**	DISTRICT ATTORNEY	2,054,048	2,138,187	2,177,103	2,137,238
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