



Office of the State Public Defender
Indigent Defense Improvement Division

IDID Bulletin **October 2025**

Public Defense Updates

California Public Defense Workloads and Staffing

The Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center has released a comprehensive assessment of public defense conditions across California: [California Public Defense Workloads and Staffing](#). The culmination of two years of research, surveys, and site visits, the report documents current indigent defense workloads and staffing across California and makes recommendations for improvement. This report is a result of AB 625 which authorized "the State Public Defender, in consultation with the California Public Defender Association and other subject matter experts, [to] undertake a study to assess appropriate workloads for public defenders and indigent defense attorneys."

Expanded Public Defense Services (Holistic Defense) Grant

The 2025-2026 Budget Act (AB 102) allocated funding for a grant program to expand public defense services in California, specifically to establish or expand holistic defense practices.

The Office of the State Public Defender is administering this grant. Eligible grantees include public defender offices and qualified entities providing indigent defense. Additional details can be found in the Request for Applications (RFA). The RFA, application, and other materials are here: [Expanded Public Defense \(Holistic Defense\) Grant](#)

The application is now open, and deadline for submission is October 28 at 5pm PT.

Any questions related to the grant should be directed to: OSPD.Grant@ospd.ca.gov

Bills Worth Watching

Now that the 2025 legislative session has come to a close, there are several bills awaiting the Governor's signature or veto that could have an impact on public defense and individuals experiencing the criminal legal system or incarceration. These include potential new crimes and aggravating factors, new trial counsel file retention policies, and clarifications to the RJA, among other relevant topics. See the attached two page handout to learn about these bills. We also encourage you to review OSPD's full [Legislative Tracking page](#), which covers over 250 bills introduced this year. Access to the IDID Training SharePoint is required. [Register here](#).

California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation-Initiated Resentencing

California PolicyLab just released a report examining CDCR-initiated resentencing referrals, the individuals resentenced, and their recidivism rates following release. Findings include the fact that only 4% of those resentenced through CDCR-initiated resentencing were convicted of a new offense within one year of release, as compared to a 21% recidivism rate of total releases, and that none of the 93 individuals resentenced based on an exceptional conduct referral were convicted of a serious or violent offense within three years of release. Find the full report [here](#).

Participate in a National Public Defense Well-Being Study!

Public Defenders in all job roles are invited to participate in a research survey being conducted by a researcher at Harvard Business School in collaboration with BeSustained, a national nonprofit with the mission of improving access to justice by advancing the well-being of public defenders. This study seeks to deepen our understanding of what drives passion, energy and sustainability in public defense work. Your participation contributes to developing proactive, systemic strategies that will support well-being of public defenders so that we can better serve our clients. Learn more and register to participate at <http://bit.ly/484f8pK>.

Defender Job Postings

Career Opportunities with OSPD

OSPD is hiring for two attorney positions in the Indigent Defense Improvement Division! Join our team of passionate defenders committed to supporting public defense across the state. Each open attorney position is fully remote; OSPD strongly values work-life balance. For more information and to apply, click on the respective job bulletins linked below. *Application deadline for each position is October 13, 2025.*

IDID Resource Attorney [More Information Here](#)

The IDID Resource Attorney is responsible for identifying legal developments impacting indigent defense practice and generating responsive resources, sample briefing, tools, and supports for trial court defenders across California. The role includes a strong emphasis on Racial Justice Act (RJA) litigation but will be responsive over time to other statutory and caselaw developments critical to public defense.

IDID Training Attorney [More Information Here](#)

The IDID Training Attorney develops training programs for indigent defense practitioners and defense teams, including social workers and investigators. In addition to directly implementing skills-based and technical legal trainings, the Training Attorney works with defense trainers across California to increase the training capacity of local defense offices and to develop a network of training experts available to meet the evolving needs of California's defense community.

Shasta County Deputy Public Defender I/II/III [More Information Here](#)

The Shasta County Public Defender is currently providing opportunities for a meaningful career in public service, for growth and development, and the chance to directly impact our community.

October 2025 IDID Training Events

Unless otherwise noted these trainings are intended for criminal defense team members only, including attorneys, investigators, social workers, paralegals, mitigation specialists, law office professionals, and other job roles on defense teams.

Lived Experience Expert Office Hours

Session 1: Fri 10/3/25 from 10:30am-12:00pm (90 minutes) [zoom registration link](#)

Session 2: Wed 10/15/25 from 11:15am-12:30pm (75 minutes) [zoom registration link](#)

Session 3: Mon 10/20/25 from 10:30am-11:45am (75 minutes) [zoom registration link](#)

IDID is pleased to partner with Juvenile Justice Advocates of California (JJAC) to bring three virtual sessions of office hours with lived experience experts Adam Mortera, Maria Elena Greenman-Lynde, and Jose Nogales. These office hours present a unique opportunity for defenders to benefit from expert support and guidance, free of charge. The experts can answer questions on a range of client-based topics, such as: connecting with clients; preparing clients for lengthy sentences; reviewing and using a client's record to tell a compelling story; childhood trauma; community trauma; prison life;

victimization experienced by gang members; substance use disorders; and poverty. JJJAC experts will answer questions relevant to defenders practicing in adult, resentencing, and juvenile proceedings. Attendees are strongly encouraged to submit questions in advance using the registration form. These questions will receive priority. When submitting questions, please be mindful of client confidentiality, as these office hours are not confidential spaces. Prior registration is required, and there is a separate registration form for each session. **See attached flyer.**

JJAC is a non-profit organization of gang experts in criminal and juvenile proceedings dedicated to advocating for youth and providing trauma and healing informed care as an alternative to extreme punishment and incarceration. JJAC staff are credible messengers and mentors with lived experience and aim to bring accurate information regarding gangs, gang culture and norms to promote equitable solutions in the courtroom. JJAC currently provides rehabilitative programs and mentorship support in juvenile detention facilities in San Diego and Los Angeles Counties.

Other Training Opportunities

Provided for information only and are not affiliated with OSPD



NASAMS Fundamentals of Mitigation Certificate Program

Webinar presented by National Legal Aid & Defender Association

10/15/2025 to 10/17/2025

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 Defending Modern Drug Cases Seminar

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

10/22/2025 to 10/25/2025

Sahara Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

[More Information and Registration](#)



2025 DWI Means Defend with Ingenuity Seminar

Live Training presented by National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

10/22/2025 to 10/25/2025

Sahara Las Vegas Hotel and Casino, Las Vegas, NV

[More Information and Registration](#)



Capital Defense Community Resilience Discussion Forum

Webinar presented by Advancing Real Change, Inc.

10/27/2025 12:30pm- 1:30pm

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)



Ineffective Assistance of Counsel: Standards and Investigative Strategies

Webinar presented by Advancing Real Change, Inc.

10/28/2025 10:00 am

Virtual

[More Information and Registration](#)

The Office of the State Public Defender is a state agency founded in 1976 to represent indigent criminal defendants on appeal. Today, the agency has two divisions. The Appellate Division provides high quality appellate representation for those convicted of capital offenses. The Indigent Defense Improvement Division supports trial level indigent defense systems across California by providing defense attorney training and assistance to counties with public defense systems. See Gov. Code Section 15420(b).
