



FISCAL YEAR
2024-2025
BUDGET PRESENTATION

ELLEN McDONNELL
PUBLIC DEFENDER



OVERVIEW

- ❖ Mission
- ❖ 2024-25 Budget & Staffing
- ❖ Practice Areas
- ❖ Client Caseload Data & Demographics
- ❖ Current Challenges

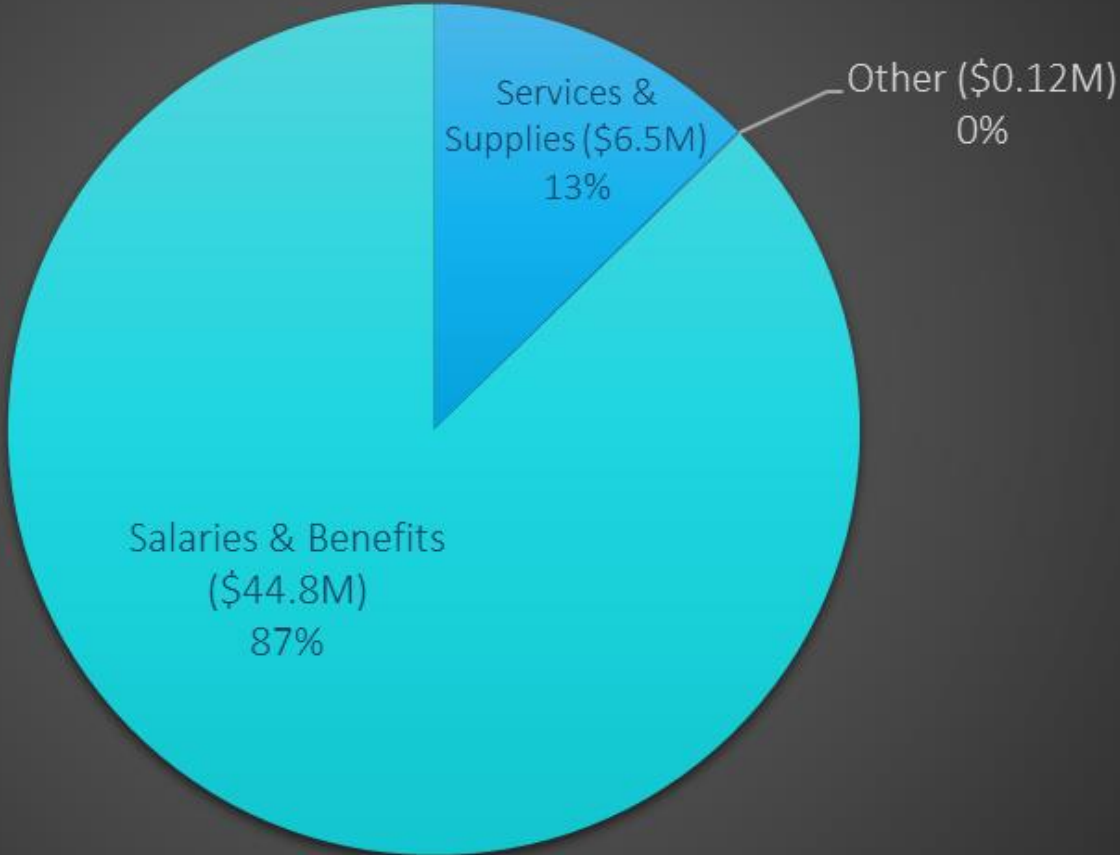
Contra Costa Public Defender Mission

The Public Defender fiercely and aggressively defends individuals charged with crimes inside of courtrooms throughout Contra Costa County. All our clients are indigent, and many are mentally ill and unhoused. Nearly 37% of the Public Defender's clientele identify as black, and approximately 30% identify as Latinx. Public Defender clients are some of the most vulnerable and marginalized community members in Contra Costa. In addition to our litigation inside of the courtroom, we strive to advance equity and further community stability for thousands of community members each year. We achieve this through our holistic defense approach, that features a wide array of specialized programs, units, and partnerships.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

General Fund	FY 22/23 Actuals	FY 23/24 Adopted Budget	FY 24/25 Recommended Budget	Change
Expenses	\$38,286,001	\$46,329,230	\$50,716,679	\$4,387,449
Revenue	\$7,779,997	\$11,182,230	\$10,476,403	(\$705,827)
Net Cost	\$ 30,506,005	\$35,147,000	\$40,240,276	\$5,093,276
FTE	172.5	190.5	191.5	1

2024-25 Recommended Expenditures Appropriation (\$50.7M)



■ Services & Supplies (\$6.5M) ■ Other (\$0.12M) ■ Salaries & Benefits (\$44.8M)

FY 2024-2025 Employee Distribution by Category

Category	Count
Managing Attorneys	12
Line Attorneys	100.5
Administration	8
Clerical Support	19
Case Prep Assistants	3
Legal Assistants	21
Investigators	15
Social Work Staff	13
Total FTE	191.5

Vacancy Factor: As of 4/1/24, we are projecting 13 vacancies with a dollar value of \$3,059,628 and a budgeted vacancy factor of \$33,059 for FY 24-25.

Felonies

Misdemeanors

Youth Defense

Mental Health

Revocations

Clean Slate

Strategic
Litigation &
Research

Immigration

CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC DEFENDER PRACTICE AREAS



CONTRA COSTA COUNTY
PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Clean Slate Unit
Clearing Criminal Records

Services and Assistance Programs:

Expungements

Sealing of Arrests

Contra Costa Public Defender Programs Advancing Equity

- Clean Slate Program
- Holistic Intervention Partnership (HIP)
- Stand Together Contra Costa (STCC)
- Strategic Litigation & Research Unit
- Racial Justice Act Litigation
- Youth Early Intervention Partnership (YEIP)
- Alternatives to Supervision Program
- Social Work & Reentry Services Unit

2023 PUBLIC DEFENDER CASE REFERRALS

FELONIES	2,384
MISDEMEANORS	4,071
YOUTH DEFENSE	401
MENTAL HEALTH	642
IMMIGRATION	142
CLEAN SLATE	3,036
REVOCATIONS	1,530
POST CONVICTION	140
TOTAL	12,346

2023 PUBLIC DEFENDER REFERRALS BY RACE

U.S. Census Demographic Race	2023 Contra Costa County Demographics
White alone	62.8%
Black or African American alone	9.5%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.1%
Asian alone	20.2%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.6%
Two or More Races	5.8%
U.S. Census Demographic Ethnicity	2023 Contra Costa County Demographics
Hispanic or Latino, not white	27.0%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	39.8%

Client Race/Ethnicity	2023 Referrals by Race/Ethnicity
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	19.8%
Black or African American alone	29.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone	0.1%
Asian alone	1.8%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.2%
Hispanic or Latino, not white	24.0%
Two or More Races	3.0%
Unspecified Race	21.7%



2023: A YEAR IN REVIEW

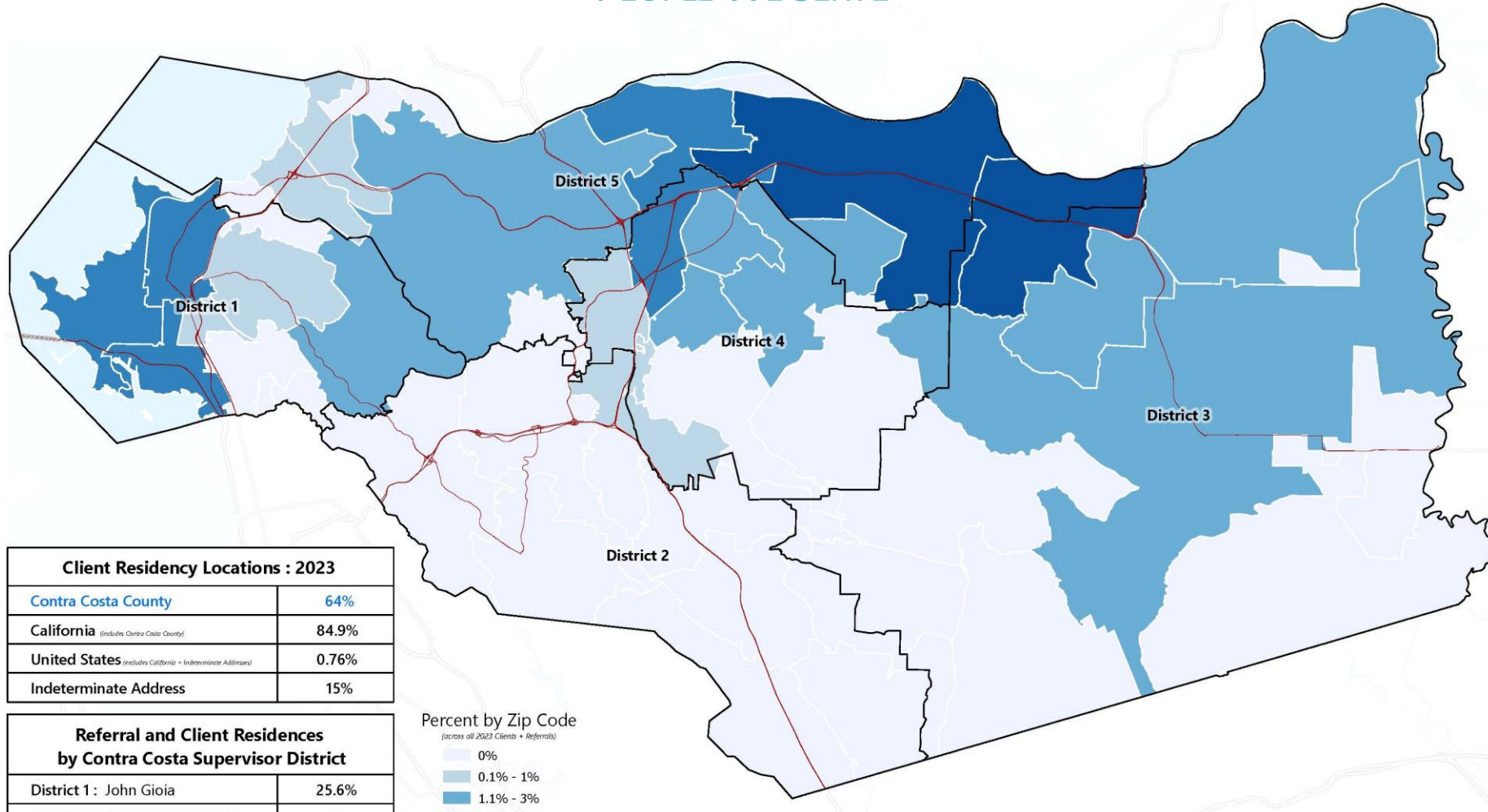
- 268 Trials conducted
 - 209 Jury Trials Conducted
 - 59 Court Trials Conducted
- 64% of felony trials resulted in full acquittal, partial acquittal, or mistrial
- 73% of misdemeanor trials resulted in full acquittal, partial acquittal, or mistrial

	TOTAL TRIALS	JURY TRIALS	COURT TRIALS
2020	153	110	43
2021	203	147	56
2022	192	140	52
2023	268	209	59

Trial Trends Year Over Year

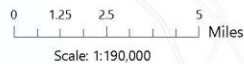
CONTRA COSTA PUBLIC DEFENDER

PEOPLE WE SERVE



Client Residency Locations : 2023	
Contra Costa County	64%
California (includes Contra Costa County)	84.9%
United States (includes California + Indeterminate Addresses)	0.76%
Indeterminate Address	15%

Referral and Client Residences by Contra Costa Supervisor District	
District 1 : John Gioia	25.6%
District 2 : Candance Anderson	4%
District 3 : Diane Burgis	22%
District 4 : Ken Carlson	16.8%
District 5 : Federal D. Glover	31.6%





STCC is a collaborative partnership between the County and local community-based organizations to **provide** immigrant legal services, community outreach, and public education. Our community partners include Jewish Family and Community Services, Immigration Institute of the Bay Area, and Faith in Action – East Bay

Indigent immigrants are not automatically provided with an attorney during deportation proceedings and 85.3% of immigrants in the US ordered deported last month did not have an attorney

Nationally, immigrants seeking asylum protections without an attorney only win 18% of cases, while in Contra Costa, immigrants who are represented by STCC attorneys win their cases 92% of the time

Last year, our STCC defense team represented 154 clients in deportation proceedings, and we reached 677 people through our community outreach and education programs



U.S. NEWS

Authorities charge 9 current and former California police officers in corruption case



FBI arrest California police officers involved in racist text messages scandal

A grand jury had indicted officers from Antioch and Pittsburg for a wide range of offenses, including criminal conspiracy



Multiple officers were arrested for sharing violently racist, misogynist and anti-gay texts. Photograph: Ray Chavez/AP

The FBI arrested nine current and former California police officers on Thursday as part of a major criminal investigation into racist text messages of dozens of law enforcement officials, prosecutors said.

U.S. NEWS

Racist text scandal at Northern California police department at center of court hearing



Antioch Police Department Racist Texting Scandal

- In 2023, an FBI investigation uncovered thousands of racist text messages that involved nearly half of the Antioch police force
- This discovery has had a cascading impact on an unprecedented number of community members
- Last year, the Board allotted funding for 5 Public Defender Attorneys to focus on defending those impacted as well as Racial Justice Act litigation
- Our work continues at the Public Defender's Office to bring justice to those who have been victimized by police corruption and racism in policing

CURRENT CHALLENGES

HIGH VOLUME OF
FELONY, MISDEMEANOR,
AND MENTAL HEALTH
CASE REFERRALS

POTENTIAL LOSS OF
POST-CONVICTION UNIT
STATE GRANT FUNDING

INSUFFICIENT MENTAL
HEALTH
CONSERVATORSHIP
STAFFING

STRAINED IT SUPPORT
AND BANDWIDTH

CAPACITY CONCERNS
WITH RACIAL JUSTICE
ACT LITIGATION
SUPPORT STAFFING

New Legislation for 2024: Retroactive Racial Justice Act Relief



Meeting the Challenge of Newly Retroactive Racial Justice Act Litigation

The California Racial Justice Act is legislation designed to allow those impacted by the criminal legal system to challenge racism in the legal system – this law became retroactive in 2024

1,521

Individuals currently serving Contra Costa convictions in State Prison

1,208 (79%)

People of color currently serving time for Contra Costa convictions in State Prison

The Public Defender is working to meet the challenge of representing the large number of individuals who are newly eligible for Racial Justice Act relief

Potential State Budget Cut: Public Defense Pilot Program Grant

In 2022, the State provided grant funding to address inequities in sentencing and to implement much needed legal reforms for those currently serving inequitably long or unjust state prison sentences.

Contra Costa has received approx. \$3 million for the first 2 years of this grant.

Contra Costa was slated to receive nearly \$1.2 million in the 3rd year of the grant, but the Governor proposed to cut this critical funding to all counties.

The Public Defender served 160 individuals, including 70 individuals who were resentenced, during this period.

Of this group, 83% are people of color and 45% are Black.

CCPD currently represents 471 incarcerated clients who are entitled to constitutionally mandated post-conviction legal services.



CONSERVATORSHIP: CURRENT CASELOAD AND STAFFING CHALLENGE

CCPD represents vulnerable, mentally ill individuals subject to involuntary civil commitment

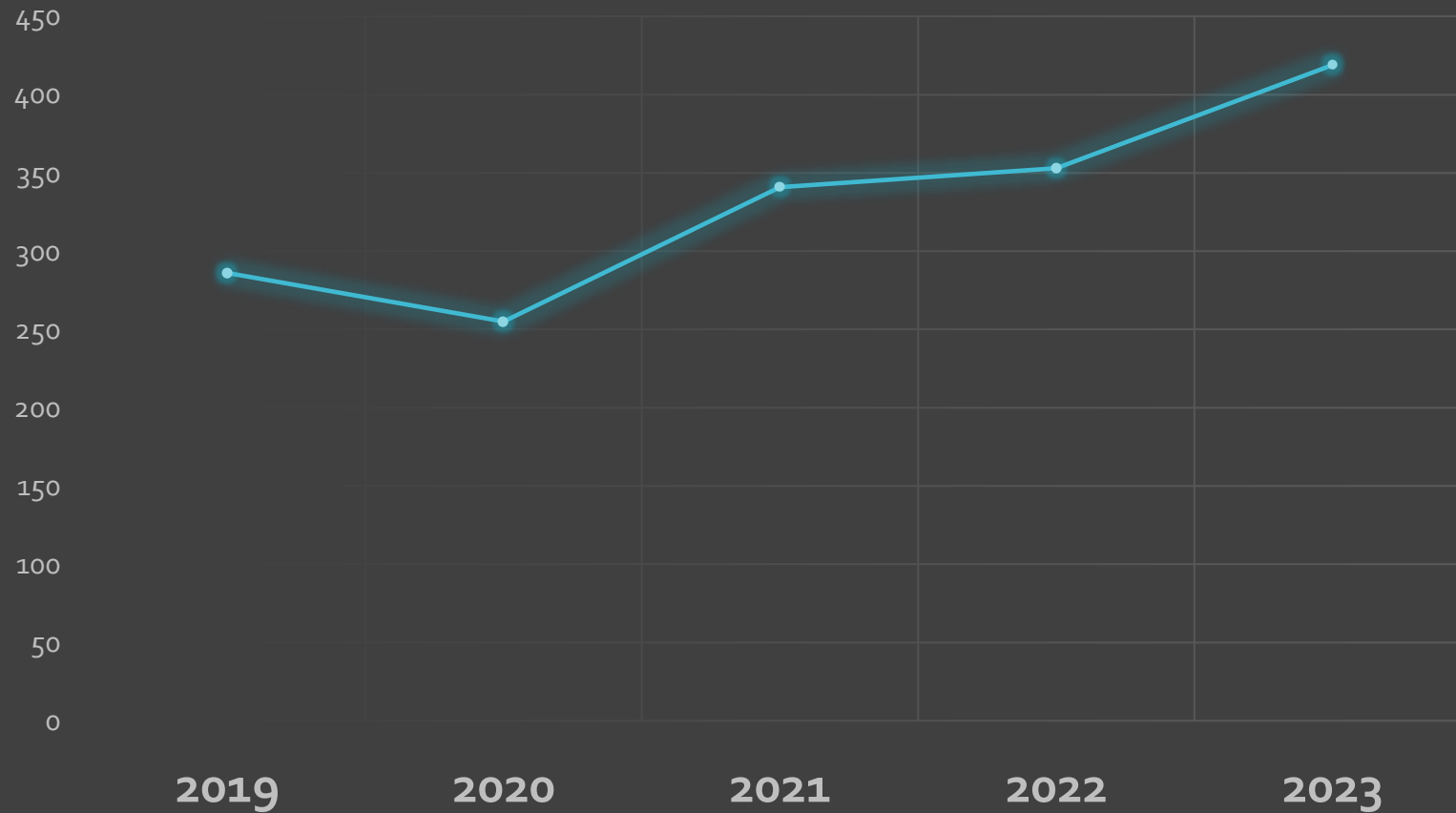
New legislation has caused elevated referrals and increased conservatorship workload

Currently have insufficient attorney bandwidth to handle large Conservatorship caseload

Expanded definition of conservatorship to be implemented as soon as 2025 to include substance use disorder

CARE Court is on the horizon in December of 2024

Number of Cases Per Year



Public Defender Conservatorship Case Referral Trend



Facilities Improvements

Completed main office 800 Ferry Street remodel in the Fall of 2023

Moving into office space at 1026 Escobar in June of 2024

Looking forward to adding East County office space to increase our presence in East County

A Look Ahead

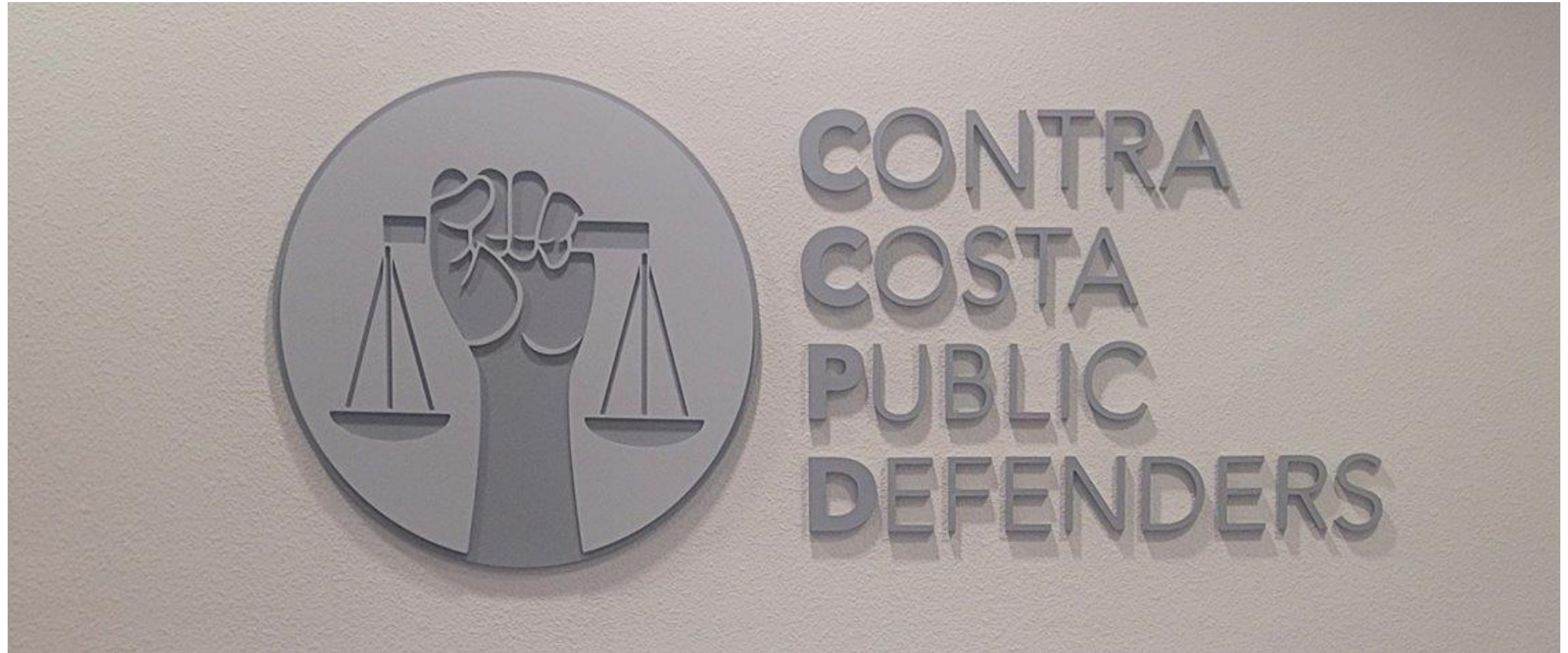
CARE Court Launch and Implementation in December of 2024

Onboarding and training our litigation support team staff

Continuing to address cases for those impacted by the Antioch PD racism scandal

Ongoing investment in internal Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI-B) training

Continuing our research partnership with the Center for Policing Equity (CPE)



Questions or Comments?