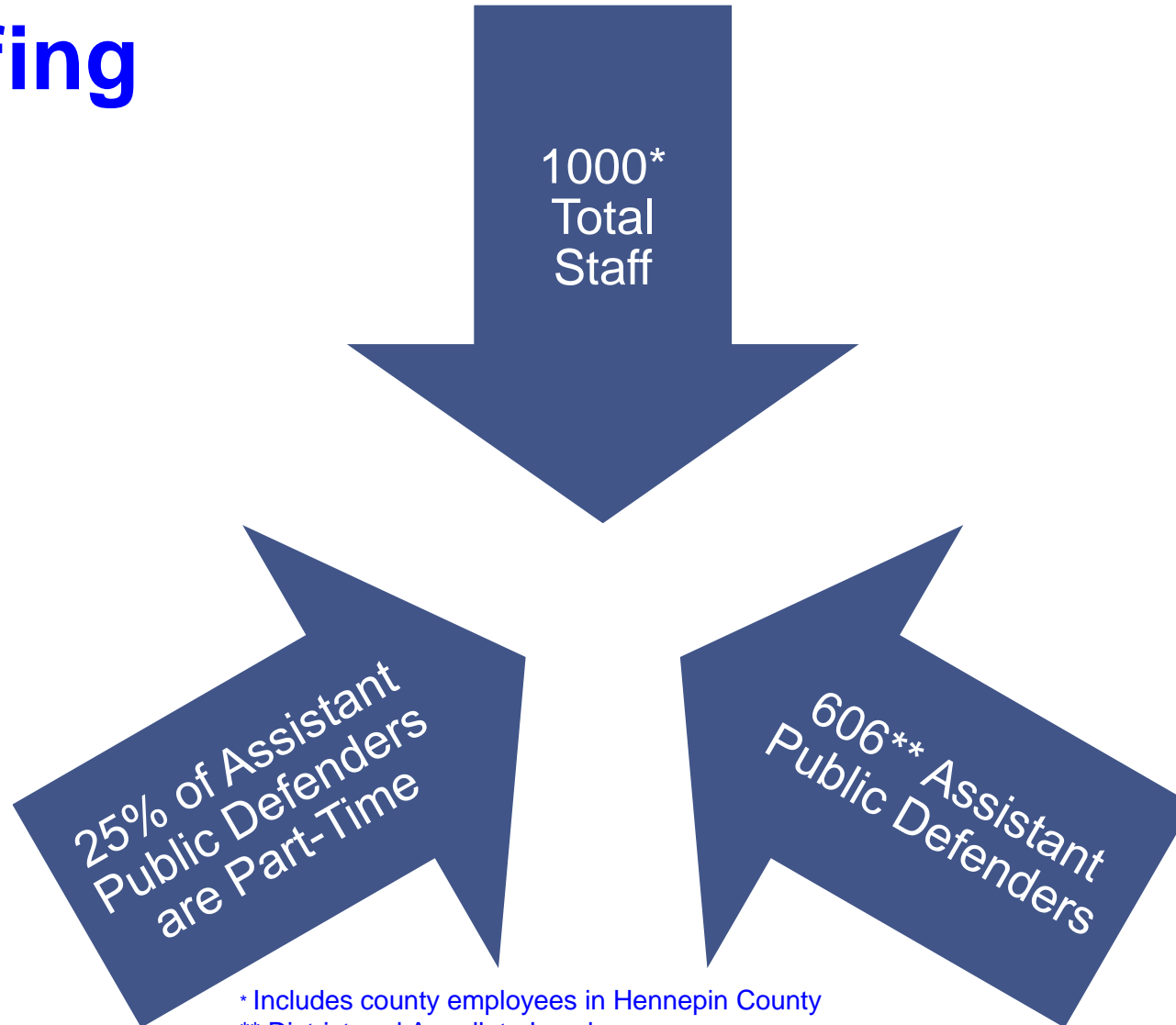




Board of Public Defense  
Senate Judiciary and Public Safety  
Committee  
January 2025

*We the People*  
...provide for the common  
...do ordain and establish this Con  
...of the United States, which shall con  
...every second Year by the People  
...of the State Legislature  
...fifty five years, and been o  
...ded with

# Staffing

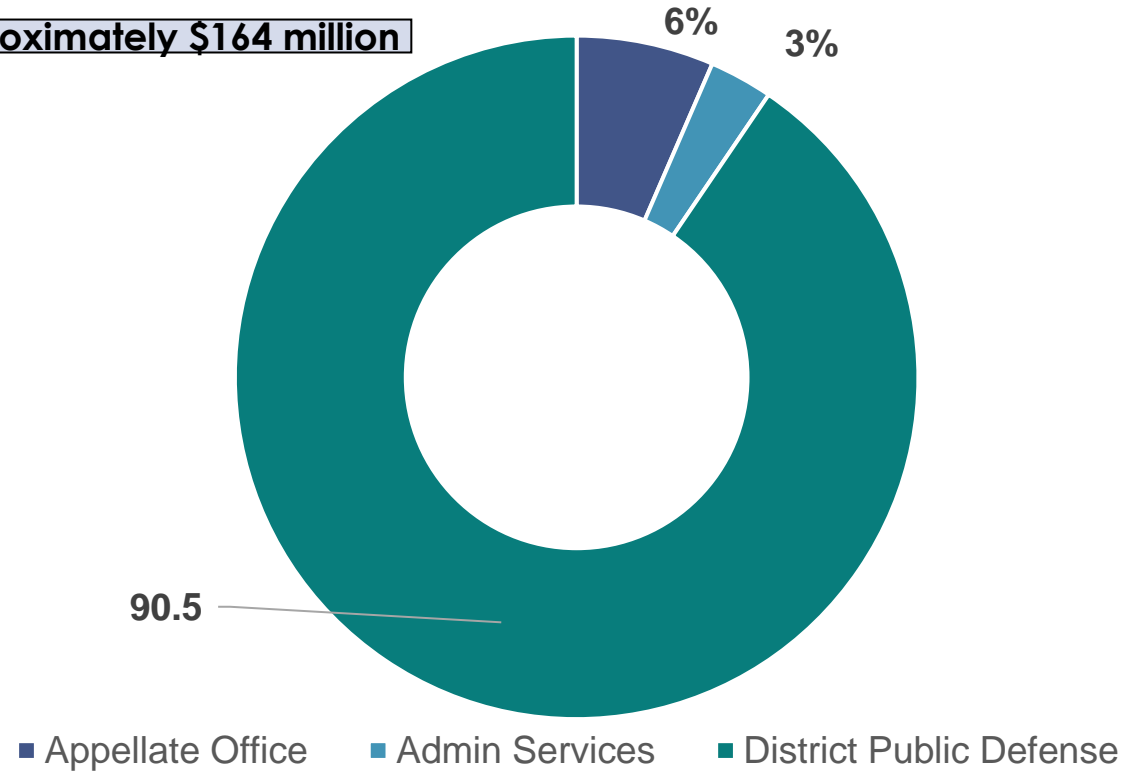


\* Includes county employees in Hennepin County  
\*\* District and Appellate Level.



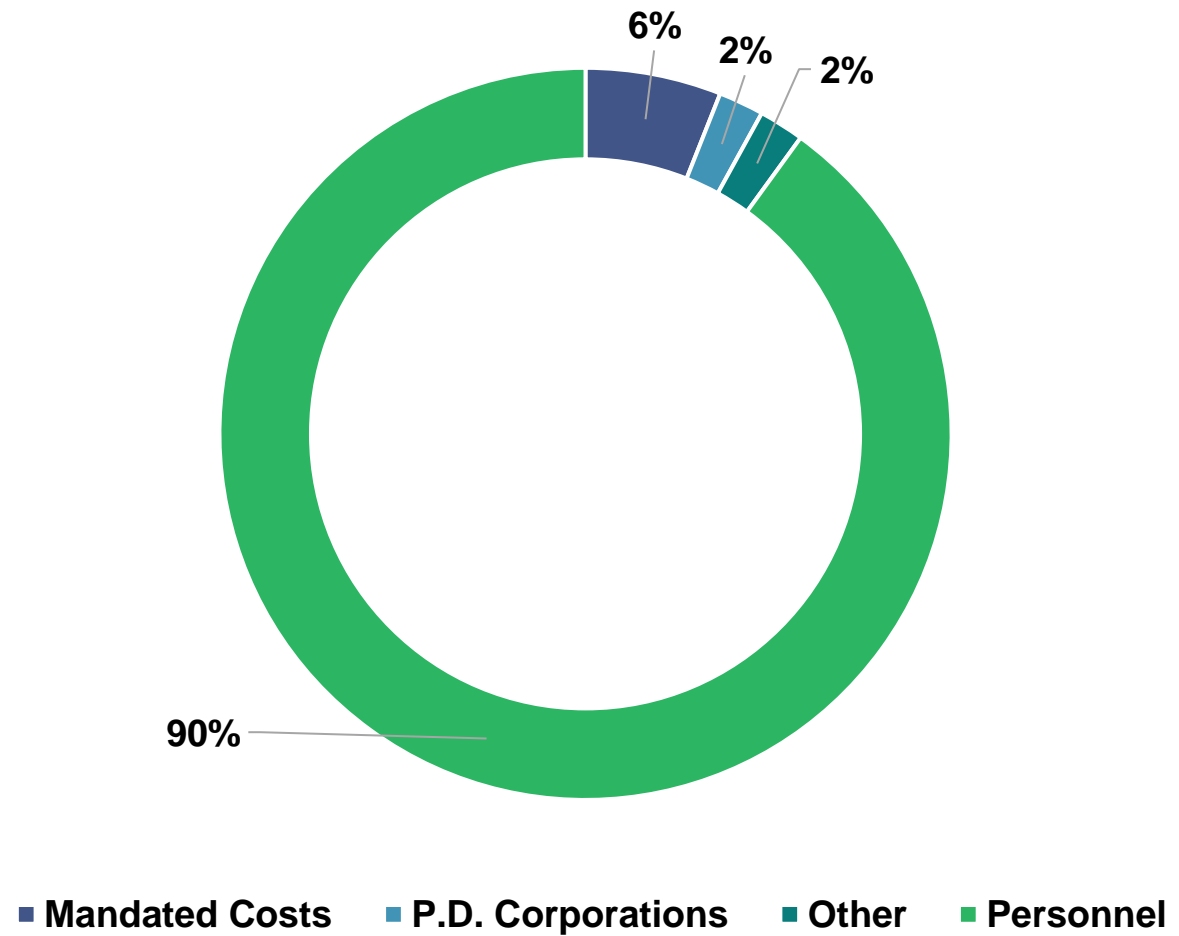
## F.Y. 2025 Budget by Program

Approximately \$164 million



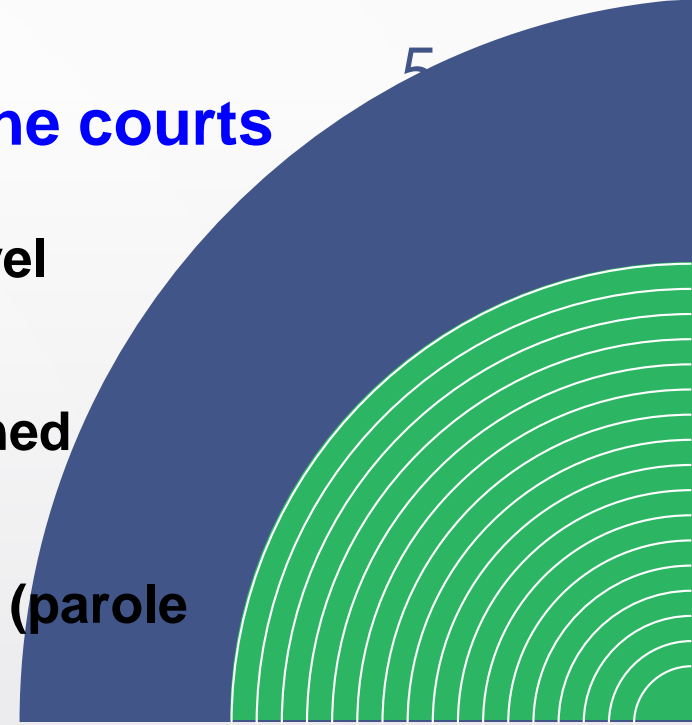


## Budget by Area



## Largest user of the courts

- 130,000 cases on trial level
- 3,600 appellate files opened
- 3,800 supervised release (parole revocation) files opened
- Mandated Services in Every County/Courtroom
- Caseloads/Workload Commitments controlled by outside factors



- *Dzubiak v Mott*

a public defender “may not reject a client, but is obligated to represent whoever is assigned to her or him...”

- *State v Deegan*

Appellate Office declined to represent Deegan because he pled guilty and received less than the presumptive sentence, the district court denied Deegan's motion for appointment of counsel. The Minnesota State Supreme Court reversed that decision.







## **Public Defender Workload/ Caseload Challenges**

Public Defender



Caseload

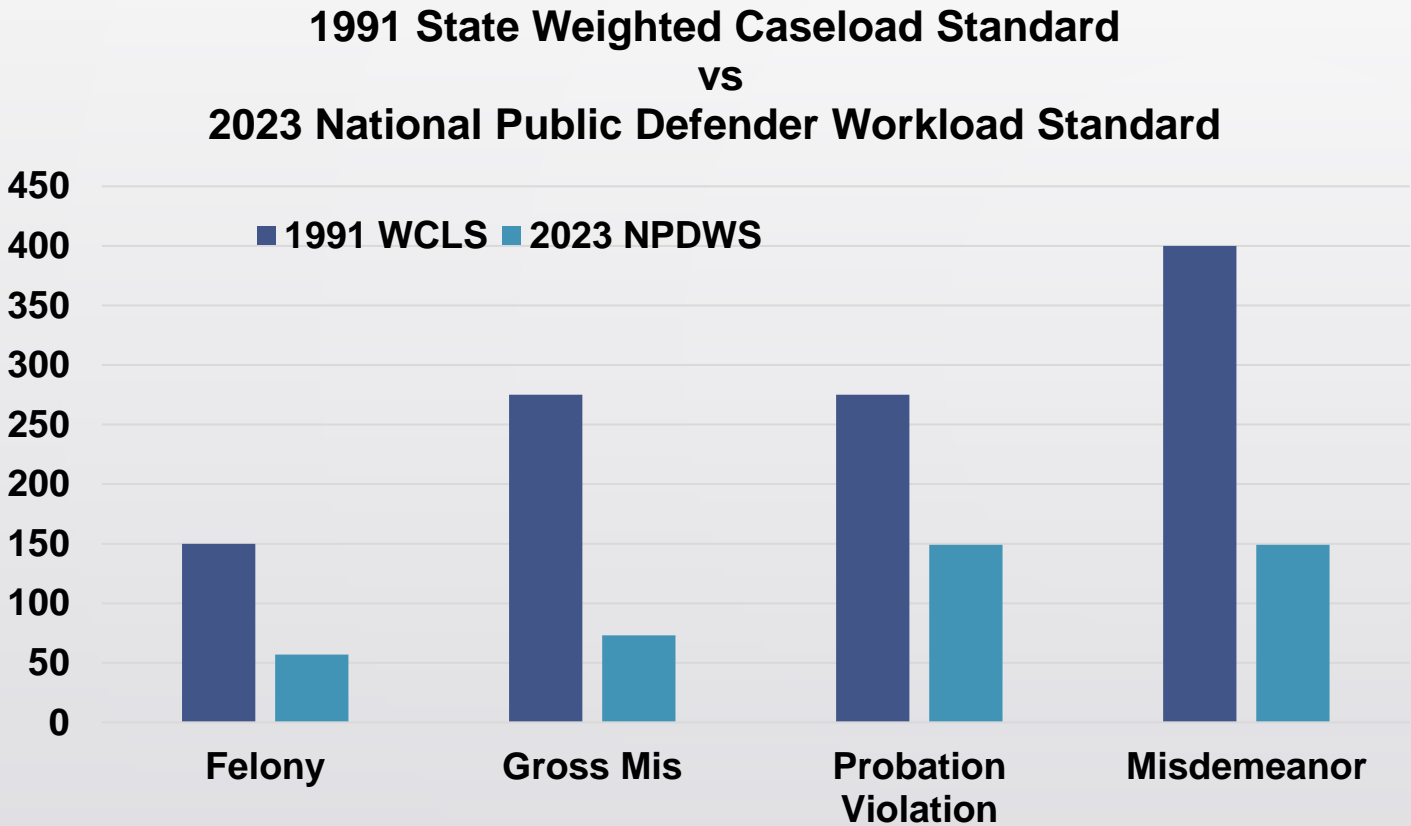
Individual Client







**Public Defender Workloads/ Caseloads Challenges**



CASE TYPE	1991 WEIGHTED CASELOAD STANDARD	2023 NATIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDER WORKLOAD STANDARD
Felony	150	21-59
Gross Mis./Other	275	73
Probation Violations	275	149
Misdemeanor	400	149

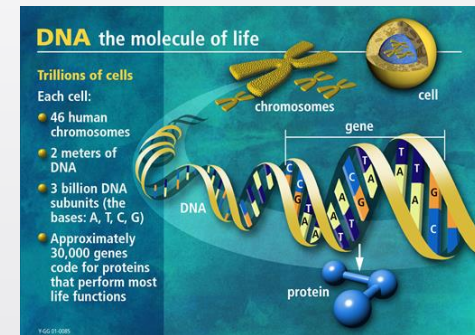
## Audio/Video Dashboard, Body, Public and Private Cameras

- 2023- received 280 terabytes of data.
- 2024- first **6 months**- 280 terabytes of data. w/o Hennepin County
- = 70,000 full length movies
- Attorney time to review-????
- Storage costs



## Scientific Evidence

- Evidence must be analyzed for the ways in which it is collected, processed, analyzed, and reported.
- This includes computer forensics, drug analysis, fingerprint analysis, DNA, ballistics, arson reports, and other forensic evidence.







- Alcohol/drug abuse and addiction is a factor in 80%-90% of Minnesota's criminal cases.
- 45% of inmates in local jails and prisons have co-occurring substance use and other mental health issues
- 30%-50% of jail inmates suffer from mental illness.
- 50-80% of those involved in the criminal court system have had a TBI



# Language and Cultural Barriers





# Meeting Challenges Caseloads 2X to 3X Higher than 2023 NPDWS

## 2026/2027 Budget Request (\$000)

**FY 2026**

**FY 2027**

**\$14,800**

**\$25,400**

- Staffing to begin moving toward National Standard
- Goal to reduced caseloads by 15% over two years
- Attorneys -88
- Investigators-13
- Paralegals- 10
- Dispositional Advisors- 11
- Legal Office Assistants- 20
- Managing Attorneys- 8



Building on Success  
2026/2027 Budget Request (\$000)

- | FY 2026  | FY 2027  |
|----------|----------|
| \$11,900 | \$24,300 |
- Cut resignation rate by more than 50%
- Increased applicant pools by 1/3 (still below pre pandemic levels, still difficult in Greater Minnesota)
- Salary and Benefit Increases-Maintain parity with prosecutors

Assistant Public Defender Resignations  
2022 and 2024

