Clean Slate Program
Phone: 415-553-9337
Email: cleanslate@sfgov.org
Walk-In Clinic Hours and Locations:

- Arriba Juntos Office
  1850 Mission Street
  Monday, 2pm-4pm

- Public Defender’s Office
  555 7th Street
  Tuesday, 9am-11am

- Up From Darkness Office
  1075 Fillmore Street
  1st and 3rd Wednesdays, 2pm-4pm

- The Village Community Center
  1099 Sunnydale Avenue
  4th Wednesdays, 2pm-4pm

- Southeast Community Center
  1800 Oakdale Avenue
  Thursday, 9am-noon

This report was not printed at public expense.
Message from the Public Defender


These are the core values of the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office. These values are at the very foundation of who we are, what we stand for and how we aspire to serve our clients.

These values represent our promise that each client will receive the finest legal representation possible and that staff members will receive the resources, support and training necessary to do their job to the best of their ability.

Through discipline, perseverance and ethical action we breathe life into these values.

In this year’s annual report, you will learn more about the mission, vision and values of the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office. From our case statistics and unit reports, you will discover how we translate these values into success in the courtroom and in the community.

Each year, we serve over 20,000 individuals facing felony and misdemeanor criminal charges, seeking expungement services, requiring social service assessments, and opposing civil commitments.

Our clients trust us to provide no less than the best legal representation that we have to offer. Justice demands it. With pride, passion, and adherence to the values that bind us and define us, we deliver.

Sincerely,

Jeff Adachi
Mission. Our mission is to protect and defend the rights of our indigent clients through effective, vigorous, compassionate, and creative legal advocacy.
# January

"Justice cannot be for one side alone, but must be for both."

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

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- **New Year’s Day**
- **Martin Luther King Jr. Day**
- **Inauguration Day**
- **Chinese New Year**
Vision. Our vision is to provide the highest level of legal advocacy for each of our clients, and to be a nationwide model for the delivery of indigent defense services.
“The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”

*United States Constitution: Fourth Amendment*
Excellence.
We strive for personal and professional excellence. We recognize and reward exceptional performance.

In 2008, the Public Defender’s Office Felony Unit handled 10,835 cases and completed 64 jury trials with a 44% success rate: 34% resulted in no conviction and 10% resulted in mixed verdicts of conviction and acquittal.

The Felony Unit also reported:
- Arraignments (new cases): 4,805
- Cases dismissed: 1,108
- Cases held to answer: 825
- Felony cases reduced to misdemeanor: 163
- Resolved by plea bargain before preliminary hearing: 1,878
- Avg. attorney caseload, annually: 301
- Avg. attorney caseload, any given time: 56

In 2008, the Misdemeanor Unit handled 8,780 cases and completed 134 jury trials with a 72% success rate: 43% resulted in no conviction and 29% resulted in mixed verdicts of conviction and acquittal.

The Misdemeanor Unit also reported:
- Arraignments (new cases): 3,481
- Cases dismissed: 1,978
- Trial settings: 2,097
- Avg. attorney caseload, annually: 585
- Avg. attorney caseload, any given time: 129

Deputy Public Defender Matthew Rosen exits Department 21 after sentencing.
# March

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- **1st March**: Daylight Savings Begins
- **15th March**: St. Patrick’s Day
- **17th March**: Purim
- **25th March**: Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335 (1963)
- **29th March**: Cesar Chavez Day

**Quotes**

- If it doesn’t make sense, you must find for the defense.
  
  *Johnny Cochran*
“[My social worker] is truly concerned when it comes to, not just doing her job, but doing her job to the very best of her ability. [She] is unrivaled when it comes to helping those who truly desire to change, are less fortunate, and just can't get a break.”

In 2008, the Public Defender's Office Juvenile Unit handled 1,100 cases on behalf of minors charged with delinquent offenses.

For the second year in a row, not a single client was committed to the Department of Juvenile Justice.

The Juvenile Unit also reported:
- Court appearances: 3,545
- Trials: 53
- Contested dispositions: 76
- Avg. attorney caseload, annually: 138
- Avg. attorney caseload, any given time: 50

Deputy Public Defender Roger Chan consults with the parents of a client.

**Integrity.** We act with integrity, fairness and honesty.
### April 2009

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* "The erosion of a nation’s concern for life and for individual rights, has always preceded the intrusion of tyranny."

*Gerry Spence*
5th Annual Juvenile Justice Summit

*Less Talk More Action: Solutions for Safe Schools and Safe Streets May 2008*

Over 200 youth, families, youth agencies and community partners convened at the San Francisco Main Public Library, Koret Auditorium, to discuss and pose solutions to violence among youth in schools and their communities.

For more information on the Annual Juvenile Justice Summit visit: http://sfpublicdefender.org.

**Justice.** We are committed to ensuring justice, humanity, and equality in the criminal and juvenile justice systems.
To watch the 5th Annual Juvenile Justice Summit or to get information about the 6th Annual Juvenile Justice Summit, to be held this month, visit http://sfpublicdefender.org.

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* "... nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law...."

*United States Constitution: Fifth Amendment*
Communication.
We communicate with our clients and their families.

The attorneys of the Public Defender’s Office are supported by a dedicated and talented staff of investigators, paralegals, legal processing clerks, word processors, social workers, and information technology specialists.

Our Training Unit provides in-house lectures and workshops to ensure a well-rounded and knowledgable staff.

In 2008, our Research Unit produced 39 memoranda of law, 115 motions, 214 writs and appeals, and 20 office trainings and seminars.

“My public defender has shown me so much personal attention and respect as a human individual... Thank you very much for such a superb counsel.”

At arraignment, Deputy Public Defender Megan Burns explains her client’s rights.
“You can only protect your liberties in this world by protecting the other man’s freedom. You can only be free if I am free.”

Clarence Darrow
Respect. We understand and appreciate the inherent value of one another. We treat clients and their families with utmost dignity and respect.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COURT: Recipient of the Council on Mentally Ill Offenders 2008 Best Practices Award, BHC redirects mentally ill offenders from jail and into intensive case management in the community mental health system.

- Total cases: 112
- Number of graduates: 18

DRUG COURT: Designed to treat the root causes of addiction, Drug Court diverts non-violent substance abusers into intensive treatment, vocation and educational programs. Charges are dismissed upon successful completion of the Drug Court program.

- Total cases: 1303
- Number of graduates: 232

PROPOSITION 36 COURT: Passed by California voters in 2000, Prop. 36 Court allows non-violent substance abusers convicted of drug possession to participate in treatment in lieu of incarceration.

- Total cases: 216
- Number of graduates: 41
### July

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- Independence Day
The Public Defender’s Office BMAGIC and Mo’ MAGIC collaboratives each convene over 50 private, non-profit and government organizations to address the needs of service providers, youth and their families in the Bayview-Hunter’s Point and Western Addition neighborhoods of San Francisco.

In 2008, BMAGIC and Mo’ MAGIC provided educational and leadership opportunities to youth through innovative programming and events, including: Western Addition Community Health Fair; City Hall Youth Art Show and Talent Showcase; BMAGIC Winter Ball; Mo’ MAGIC Black and White Ball; and the Annual Back-to-School Celebration and Backpack Giveaway where over 4,000 backpacks filled with school supplies are distributed.

Community. We make a difference in our local community.
**August**

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<td><strong>BMAGIC and Mo’ MAGIC Back-to-School Celebration and Backpack Giveaway will be held this month. For date, time and location in the Bayview visit <a href="http://www.bayviewmagic.com">www.bayviewmagic.com</a>; in the Western Addition visit <a href="http://www.momagic.org">www.momagic.org</a>.</strong></td>
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"In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury .... and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defence."

*United States Constitution: Sixth Amendment*
Leadership. We lead by example.

3rd Annual Safe Communities Reentry Council Summit

Reentry Works: Creating Employment Opportunities for Formerly Incarcerated San Franciscans
September 2008

Over 375 participants convened at the 3rd Annual Reentry Summit, where the second edition of Getting Out and Staying Out: A Guide to San Francisco Resources for People Leaving Jails and Prisons was made available. To date, over 8,000 copies of Getting Out have been distributed to county jails, federal and state prisons, and community-based organizations.

The Safe Communities Reentry Council provides information and updates on reentry issues to over 900 individuals each month. For more information on the Safe Communities Reentry Council visit: http://sfreentry.com.
September is San Francisco Reentry Month. To view the 3rd Annual Reentry Summit or to learn more about the 4th Annual Reentry Summit, to be held this month, please visit: http://sfreentry.com.

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- **Labor Day**
- **Fall Intern Orientation:** 60 students
- **Eid-al-Fitr**
- **First Day of Autumn**
- **Yom Kippur Begins**

August 2009

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The Public Defender’s Office Reentry Unit provides clients with an innovative blend of legal, social, and practical support through its Clean Slate Program, Children of Incarcerated Parents (CIP) program, and social work component.

In 2008, the Reentry Unit assessed a total of 400 clients for social services; over 60% were successfully placed into or referred to employment, housing, educational, medical, or mental health services.

CIP acquired 54 new clients, bringing their caseload to 150; over 75% of CIP clients received the services they requested, including contact visits with their children, advocacy at court hearings, housing, education and treatment referrals.

The Clean Slate Program filed 1432 motions to reduce the impact of lifetime arrest and/or conviction records; 86% of these motions were successfully granted:

- 879 clients had a felony or misdemeanor conviction expunged from their record;
- 140 had an arrest record sealed or sealed and destroyed;
- 120 clients had a felony conviction reduced to a misdemeanor; and
- 6 clients received a Certificate of Rehabilitation after serving a state prison sentence.

**Services.**
We focus on serving the needs of our clients.
"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.
In 2008, the Public Defender’s Office Mental Health Unit provided representation in 2,725 civil proceedings, 73% of which were hearings to protest 14-day involuntary psychiatric treatment. The Unit also reported:

- 48 writs demanding release from 14-day involuntary psychiatric treatment;
- 196 conservatorship hearings to determine disability status; and
- 500 conservatorship renewal hearings.

The Mental Health Unit also defended clients in 157 criminal hearings, including:

- 10 hearings to extend the commitment of clients found not guilty by reason of insanity beyond the maximum term of their original sentence; and
- 6 “1370 top-out” hearings, where clients found unfit to stand trial are transitioned into the mental health system.

Teamwork.
We have a supportive, diverse work environment. We value innovation, input and feedback from all.
### November

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“...that courage is a man with a gun in his hand. It's when you know you're licked before you begin but you begin anyway and you see it through no matter what. You rarely win, but sometimes you do.”

*Harper Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird, Ch. 11, spoken by Atticus Finch.*
Opportunity.
We provide opportunities to all staff to contribute and achieve their highest potential.

VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY PROGRAM
The Volunteer Attorney Program (VAP) offers recently graduated lawyers and law firm associates experience handling misdemeanor cases and jury trials. Volunteers receive extensive training in trial skills, the law of evidence and courtroom protocol. This competitive program requires a full-time four month commitment.

In 2008, 9 attorneys participated in VAP, trying a total of 20 cases.

VOLUNTEER INTERN PROGRAM
The Volunteer Intern Program (VIP) provides opportunities to law students, paralegals, investigators, college students and volunteers who are interested in receiving hands-on experience.

In 2008, 215 interns participated in VIP.

WEST COAST FORENSIC TRIAL COLLEGE: Blood Spatter, Spring 2008
The Public Defender's Office hosted a 1-day weekend "trial college" where participants were lectured on the science of blood spatter and learned how to discredit poorly trained experts in cases involving this critical forensic area.

TRIAL SKILLS COLLEGE: Advanced Techniques of Cross Examination, Fall 2008
Hosted by the Public Defender’s Office, this 1-day workshop featured Larry Pozner, co-author of "Cross Examination: Science and Techniques." Participants, organized into small breakout groups, put Pozner's principles of cross examination into practice.
“Our government... teaches the whole people by its example. If the government becomes the lawbreaker, it breeds contempt for law; it invites every man to become a law unto himself; it invites anarchy.”  
*Louis D. Brandeis*

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- December 2010
- Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- Hanukkah Begins
- Islamic New Year
- First Day of Winter
- Christmas Day
- Kwanzaa Begins
- New Year’s Eve
“[My public defender] saved my life and saved my family great heartache. He made certain justice was served.”

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http://sfpublicdefender.org