

Budget Overview: Public Defender Agency Office of Public Advocacy



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Public Defender Agency (PDA)

Public Defender Quinlan Steiner

PDA Budget

Public Defender Agency	FY2015 Mngmt Plan	FY2018 Mngmt Plan	% Change from FY15
UGF	25,963.3	24,450.7	-5.83%
DGF	310.5	827.1	
OTHER	633.0	701.8	
FED	0.0	0.0	
TOTAL	26,906.8	25,979.6	-3.45%

PDA Challenges

Workload Increases

- Overall workload increased 14% since FY13
- Civil cases increased dramatically over the last 10 years
 - 43% increase from FY14 to FY15 in CINA cases Statewide
 - 60% increase from FY14 to FY15 in CINA cases in Anchorage
 - 78% increase from FY14 to FY17 in CINA cases in Northern Region
- Average of 233 cases per Public Defender in FY2017
- Caseload is beyond maximum ethical limit set by the American Bar Association

Meeting Constitutional Obligations

Reduced resources impact ability to:

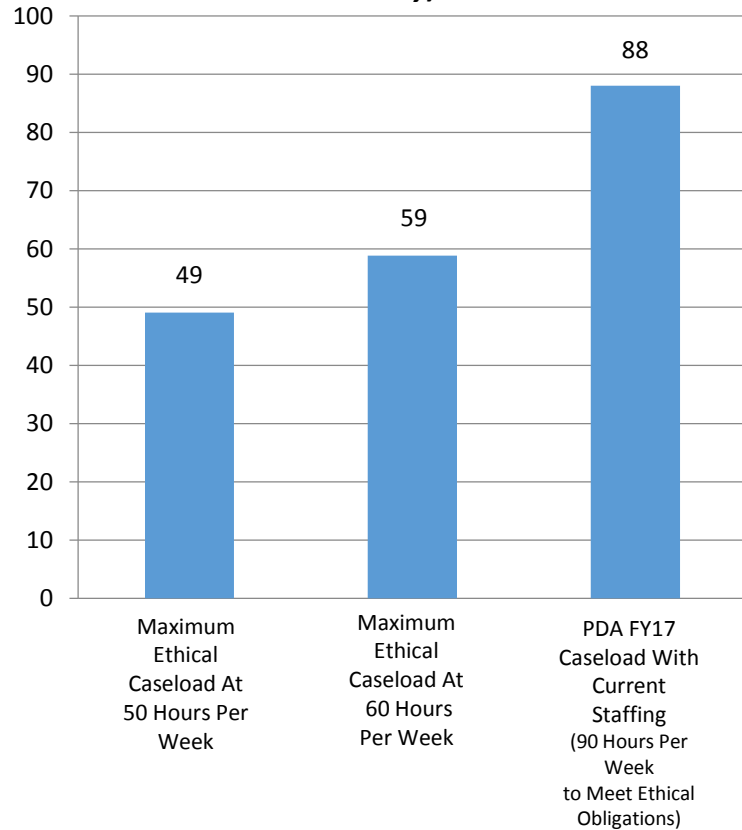
- Meet new Court of Appeals filing deadlines
- Maintain effective presence in rural offices necessary to meet ethical and constitutional obligations

Recruitment

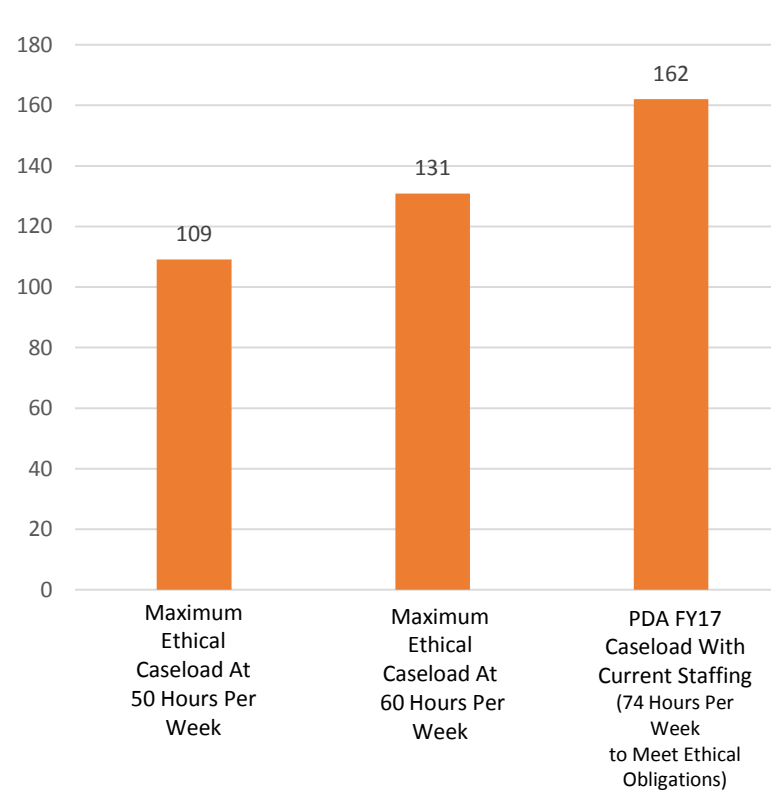
- Fewer public defenders and staff means increased backlog and workload, and decreased effectiveness of efficiency initiatives
- Retention is impacted by sustained workload increases and budget restraints on relief strategies

PDA Workload Analysis with other Standards

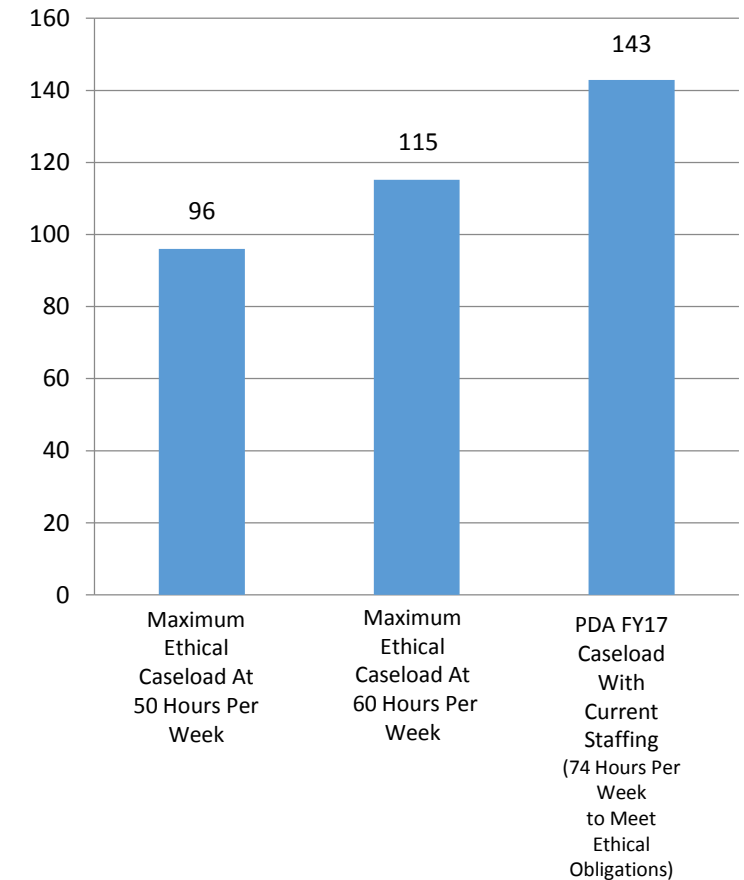
**Maximum Ethically Permissible Caseload
(Based on 1998 Legislative Audit/Time Study)**



**Maximum Ethically Permissible Caseload
(Based on Louisiana Project Time Study)**



**Maximum Ethically Permissible Caseload
(Based on Missouri Project Time Study)**



PDA Accomplishments

- Expanding Holistic Justice Initiative, designed to assist clients with non-legal barriers to successful re-entry, utilizing lower-cost, non-attorney staff
- Completed implementation of centralized statewide services sections for case opening and conflict of interest analysis
 - Increasing efficiency by providing greater consistency and expertise
 - Enabling increased oversight and more effective training
- Continuing to address appellate backlog while meeting new COA filing deadlines
- Technology Cost Reductions by transitioning physical servers to DOA maintained virtual servers
- Cost reductions from service RFPs, employee furloughs, teleconferencing

Office of Public Advocacy (OPA)

OPA Director Richard K. Allen

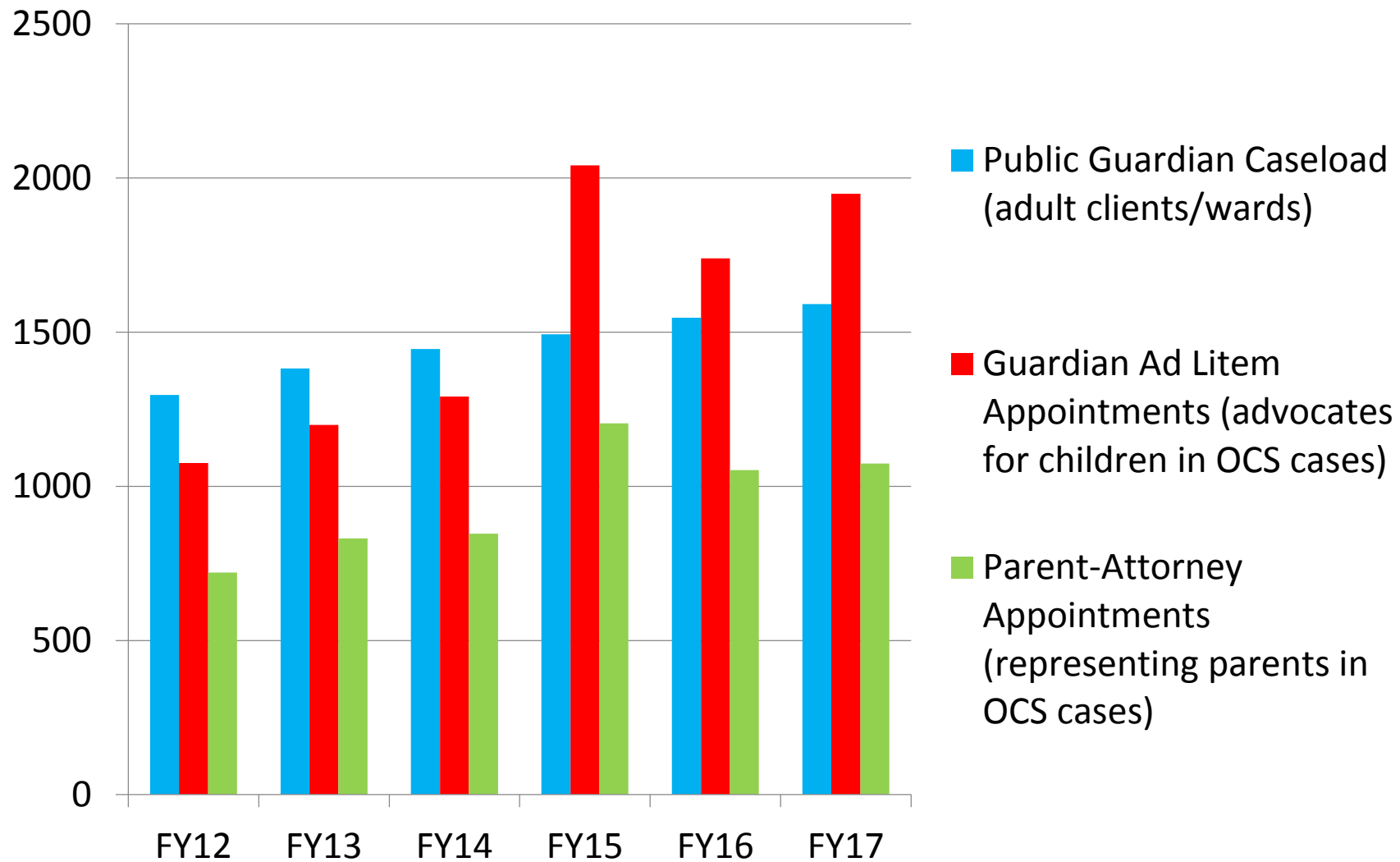
OPA Budget

Office of Public Advocacy	FY2015 Mngmt Plan	FY2018 Mngmt Plan	% Change from FY2015
UGF	23,803.5	23,170.1	-2.66%
DGF	130.7	1,587.7	
OTHER	1,186.8	578.7	
FED	250.2	51.3	
TOTAL	25,371.2	25,387.8	.07%

OPA Roles

- **Public Guardian** – Court appointed. Makes all financial and health care decisions for incapacitated adults. Statutorily required.
- **Guardian Ad Litem** – Court appointed. Advocates for the best interests of children in CINA and Civil Custody cases as well as Domestic violence cases. Statutorily required.
- **CASA** – Volunteers who help Guardians Ad Litem.
- **Criminal Defense Attorneys** – Court appointed. Represent indigent persons accused of crime. Constitutionally required.
- **Parent Representation Attorneys** – Court appointed. Represent indigent parents in CINA and Civil Custody cases. Constitutionally required.
- **Elder Fraud** – OPA decides the cases to pursue. Files lawsuits on behalf of elders who have been defrauded of assets. Statutorily required.
- **Court visitors** – Court appointed. Investigates the need for adult guardianships. Statutorily required.
- **Appeals** – Court appointed. Files appeals in criminal and civil cases. Constitutionally required.

OPA Caseloads/Appointments



OPA Challenges – CINA/Criminal

Child in Need of Aid (CINA)

- Since FY14 there has been a massive increase in OCS-filed cases
- Substantial increase in workload and cost as each case triggers 2-5 OPA professionals
- Average of 110 children per Guardian Ad Litem
- GAL's cannot visit children regularly due to the overload

Criminal Defense

- Increase in high profile and other high intensity murder and unclassified cases is overloading staff attorneys, causing OPA to send these cases to contract attorneys
- OPA is not sufficiently funded for this volume of big cases

OPA Accomplishments

- Continued restructuring and adjustment to keep more trial cases in house and reduce costs
- Reduction of contractor costs through implementation of case caps and renegotiation of contracts
- Actively and successfully continuing to challenge improper appointments by the Court
- Tight cost control measures requiring clear justification and approval by the Director or Deputy for any significant expenditure
- Travel requests closely scrutinized and requires Director or Deputy approval

Questions?

For more information on Department of Administration services, priorities, or other issues, please contact:

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