

## Part I – Agency Profile

### Agency Overview

The Office of the State Appellate Public Defender (SAPD) provides appellate representation to indigent persons who have been convicted of a felony in Idaho's district courts. The SAPD also provides appellate representation to petitioners in state felony post-conviction and habeas corpus cases. In capital cases, where a defendant has been sentenced to death, the SAPD provides district court representation for post-conviction cases, as well as representation on appeal in both the direct appeal from the judgment of conviction and appeals in post-conviction cases.

The State Appellate Public Defender for FY2016 was Sara B. Thomas, who was initially appointed by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter in January, 2012, and reappointed in August of 2014. On July 9, 2016, Governor Otter appointed Eric D. Fredericksen as Interim State Appellate Public Defender. As of July 1, 2016, the office has 23 full-time employees, including the agency head. The Capital Litigation Unit includes three attorneys, a mitigation specialist, an investigator, and one assistant. The Appellate Unit has twelve staff attorneys and three legal assistants. There is also an Office Administrator. The office is temporarily located at 304 N. 8th St., Ste. 403, Boise, Idaho.

The SAPD must provide effective assistance of counsel to its clients and timely process appeals, as mandated by both the United States and Idaho Constitutions, as well as by Idaho statutes and court rules. Ethically, in its casework the SAPD must serve, first and foremost, the best interests of its clients. The SAPD is also mindful of relevant constituent groups and the legislative goal of reducing the financial burden on Idaho counties previously caused by the extraordinary cost of legal representation of indigent defendants on appeal. The SAPD is additionally committed to strengthening Idaho's criminal justice system to ensure it is both efficient and effective for SAPD clients.

The SAPD's Mission: Defending zealously, advancing fairness, and advocating with integrity.

The SAPD's Vision: A better Idaho where the legal system treats each person with fairness and dignity.

### Core Functions/Idaho Code

The right of a defendant to representation by an attorney in a felony criminal case is a core value in Idaho, dating back to the days of the Idaho Territory. The Revised Statutes of Idaho, dated 1884, stated that if a defendant "desires and is unable to employ counsel, the court must assign counsel to defend him." Years later, the United States Supreme Court recognized, in *Alabama v. Powell*, 287 U.S. 45, 68-69 (1932), that the basic fairness required by the United States Constitution meant that indigent defendants facing capital charges had the right to assistance of counsel. More than thirty years later, in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963), the Supreme Court ruled that states have a constitutional obligation under the Sixth and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution to provide trial counsel to non-capital indigent defendants facing a loss of liberty. Finally, in *Douglas v. California*, 372 U.S. 353 (1963), the Court found that an indigent defendant is entitled to the assistance of counsel in a first appeal granted as a matter of right from a criminal conviction.

Even absent the constitutional requirements for counsel, Idaho continues to adhere to the core value of ensuring that criminal defendants facing a loss of liberty are represented by counsel "to the same extent as a person having his own counsel is so entitled." I.C. § 19-852. Similarly, in accordance with Idaho Criminal Rule 44.2, immediately after the imposition of the death penalty, the court must appoint at least one lawyer to represent the defendant for purposes of seeking post-conviction relief pursuant to Idaho Code §19-2719.

The legislature recognized that the cost of providing appellate representation was an extraordinary burden on the counties of Idaho. "In order to reduce this burden, provide competent counsel but avoid paying high hourly rates to independent counsel to represent indigent defendants in appellate proceedings," the legislature created the SAPD. See I.C. § 19-868. The duties of the office are enumerated in I.C. §19-868 through §19-872.

## Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
General Fund	\$2,057,800	\$2,103,600	\$2,238,600	\$2,451,300
Dedicated	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$25,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,057,800</b>	<b>\$2,103,600</b>	<b>\$2,238,600</b>	<b>\$2,476,300</b>
Expenditures	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Personnel Costs	\$1,573,000	\$1,623,400	\$1,804,700	\$1,887,600
Operating Expenditures	\$474,000	\$458,900	\$405,400	\$350,800
Capital Outlay	10,800	\$0	\$28,400	\$9,600
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,057,800</b>	<b>\$2,082,300</b>	<b>\$2,238,500</b>	<b>\$2,248,000</b>

## Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016
Capital Cases Managed	6	6	6	4
Non-Capital Cases Opened	675	641	702	568

## Performance Highlights

The SAPD continues to provide consistent, high-quality legal representation of indigent defendants convicted of a felony offense. As a result of the high quality of service, not only are the individual clients' rights protected, but the rights of all of Idaho's citizens. For example, in *State v. Lankford*, 2016 Opinion No. 82 (2016), the Idaho Supreme Court recognized the State's failure to disclose the full details of a pretrial agreement between the prosecution and a co-defendant amounted to reversible error. In *State v. Van Komen*, 2016 Opinion No.78 (2016), the Idaho Supreme Court recognized that a person does not waive his Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination while incarcerated in the rider program.

## Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Current Year
<b>Goal 1</b>						
<i>Provide Competent, Constitutionally Sufficient Representation to All SAPD Clients</i>						
1. No reprimands from the Office of Bar Counsel or the Idaho Supreme Court.	actual	N/A*	0	0	0	-----
	benchmark	N/A*	No Reprimands	No Reprimands	No Reprimands	
2. No affirmed findings of ineffective assistance of counsel against an SAPD attorney.	actual	N/A*	0	0	0	-----
	benchmark	N/A*	No Affirmed Findings	No Affirmed Findings	No Affirmed Findings	
3. Continuing legal education credits for renewal of licenses to practice law.	actual	N/A*	100%	100%	100%	-----
	benchmark	N/A*	100% License Renewal	100% License Renewal	100% License Renewal	
<b>Goal 2</b>						
<i>Provide Services In An Efficient Manner</i>						
4. New contract cases assigned by fiscal year.	actual	48	0	1	2	-----
	benchmark	0 Cases	0 Cases	0 Cases	0 Cases	
5. All cases assigned within 21 days of receipt of the transcript and record such that objections to the record can be filed in the district court.	actual	N/A*	100%	92.5%	92%	-----
	benchmark	N/A*	100%	100%	100%	

Performance Measure		FY 2013	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	Current Year
6. In FY2016, reduce the number of initial appellant's briefs filed on more than two extensions by 50% from FY 2015 levels.	actual	520/166	520/205	530/118	617/122	-----
	benchmark	50% <i>Reduction of Briefs filed on &gt;2 Ext. from previous FY</i>	50% <i>Reduction of Briefs filed on &gt;2 Ext. from previous FY</i>	50% <i>Reduction of Briefs filed on &gt;2 Ext. from previous FY</i>	50% <i>Reduction of Briefs filed on &gt;2 Ext. from previous FY</i>	
7. Reduce the average Appellant Unit attorneys' caseloads to an appropriate level of no more than 35 units per year.	actual	64.77 units	56.29 units	49.70 units	52.80 units	-----
	benchmark	22.00 Unit Average	22.00 Unit Average	33.00 Unit Average	35.00 Unit Average	
<b>Goal 3</b>						
<i>Collaborate With Other Entities To Improve Idaho's Criminal Justice System</i>						
8. Clarify the jurisdiction of the SAPD to handle post-conviction and habeas cases in which relief is granted, as well as representing indigent defendants in interlocutory appeals in felony cases.	actual	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	100%	-----
	benchmark	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	Amend Idaho Code § 19-870 to clarify jurisdiction of the SAPD	
9. Collaborate with other entities to improve Idaho's criminal justice system.	actual	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	100%	-----
	benchmark	N/A**	N/A**	N/A**	Participation in the ICJC IPDC, the Grant Council, the Technology Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the NAPD	

\*New Performance measure in FY 2014.  
 \*\*New Performance measure in FY 2016.

**Performance Measure Explanatory Notes**

In FY2016, the SAPD was appointed to 568 criminal appeals from the district court, marking a decrease in the number of cases to which the SAPD was appointed. This number is consistent with the number of felony criminal appeals filed in the Idaho Supreme Court. In FY2016, there were 601 felony criminal appeals, which was down by 142 criminal appeals from FY2015. In both FY2015 and FY2016, the SAPD was appointed to 95% of the criminal appeals filed in the Idaho Supreme Court. With a decrease in the number of criminal appeals, the SAPD is hopeful its workload will come closer of reaching the appropriate level of 35 workload points per fiscal year.

**For More Information Contact**

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