

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 the appeal from the denial of the post-conviction petition.

On November 22, 2016, Governor Otter appointed Eric D. Fredericksen to the position of State Appellate Public Defender. Mr. Fredericksen was reappointed to the position of State Appellate Public Defender on August 1, 2018. As of October 1, 2020, the office will have 25 full-time employees, including the agency head. The Capital Litigation Unit includes three attorneys, a mitigation specialist, an investigator, and one administrative assistant. The Appellate Unit has thirteen staff attorneys and three legal assistants. There is also an office administrator and receptionist. The office is located at 322 East Front Street, Suite 570, 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 SAPD are enumerated in I.C. §19-868 through §19-872.

Revenue and Expenditures

Revenue	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
General Fund	\$2,636,600	\$2,889,200	\$2,948,100	\$3,099,100
Dedicated	\$25,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,661,600	\$2,889,200	\$2,948,100	\$3,099,100
Expenditures	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Personnel Costs	\$2,111,500	\$2,153,663	\$2,303,900	\$2,368,800
Operating Expenditures	\$550,100	\$322,589	\$405,100	\$407,500
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$12,511	\$17,100	\$19,400
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$2,661,600	\$2,488,763	\$2,726,100	\$2,795,700

Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020
Capital Cases Managed	3	4	3	3
Non-Capital Cases Opened	537	604	600	618

Red Tape Reduction Act

Each agency shall incorporate into its strategic plan a summary of how it will implement the Red Tape Reduction Act, including any associated goals, objectives, tasks, or performance targets. This information may be included as an addendum.

	As of July 1, 2019	As of July 1, 2020
Number of Chapters	N/A	N/A
Number of Words	N/A	N/A
Number of Restrictions	N/A	N/A

The SAPD does not have any administrative rules.

FY 2020 Performance Highlights

In FY2020, the SAPD was able to obtain relief for a higher percentage of clients in the Idaho Supreme Court, than in previous years despite not being fully staffed for much of the fiscal year. Additionally, when Governor Little issued the mandatory Stay at Home Order on March 25, 2020, as an essential business, the SAPD was able to quickly pivot its business model to move to operating entirely remotely, having little disruption in the SAPD’s ability to meet its constitutional obligation to provide effective assistance of counsel for Idaho’s indigent defendants on direct appeal in felony cases and under a sentence of death.

Part II – Performance Measures

Performance Measure		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
Goal 1						
<i>Provide Competent, Constitutionally Sufficient Representation to All SAPD Clients</i>						
1. No affirmed reprimands from the Office of Bar Counsel or the Idaho Supreme Court.	actual	0	0	0	0	-----
	target	No Affirmed Reprimands	No Affirmed Reprimands	No Affirmed Reprimands	No Affirmed Reprimands	
2. No affirmed findings of ineffective assistance of counsel against an SAPD attorney.	actual	0	0	0	0	-----
	target	No Affirmed Findings	No Affirmed Findings	No Affirmed Findings	No Affirmed Findings	

Performance Measure		FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021
3. Continuing legal education credits for renewal of licenses to practice law.	actual	100%	100%	100%	100%	-----
	target	100% License Renewal	100% License Renewal	100% License Renewal	100% License Renewal	
Goal 2						
<i>Provide Services In An Efficient Manner</i>						
4. New contract cases assigned by fiscal year.	actual	0	0	8	0	-----
	target	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	100%	100%	100%	100%	-----
	target	100%	100%	100%	100%	
6. Reduce the number of initial appellant's briefs filed on more than two extensions as identified each fiscal year	actual	455/33	491/43	521/57	559/110	-----
	target	50% Reduction of Briefs filed on >2 Ext. from previous FY	25% Reduction of Briefs filed on >2 Ext. from previous FY	25% Reduction of Briefs filed on >2 Ext. from previous FY	10% Reduction of Briefs Filed on >2 Ext. from previous FY	
7. Reduce the average Appellant Unit attorneys' caseloads to an appropriate level of no more than 35 units per year.	actual	42.00 units	53.30 units	51.81 units	58.08 units	-----
	target	35.00 Unit Average	35.00 Unit Average	35.00 Unit Average	35.00 Unit Average	
Goal 3						
<i>Collaborate With Other Entities To Improve Idaho's Criminal Justice System</i>						
8. Clarify or modify the jurisdiction of the SAPD to handle identified indigent defense representation needs each fiscal year.	actual	N/A*	N/A*	N/A*	100%	-----
	target				Amend Idaho Code § 19-840 to expand jurisdiction of the SAPD to handle juvenile and misdemeanor appeals from the district court	
9. Collaborate with other entities to improve Idaho's criminal justice system.	actual	100%	100%	100%	100%	-----
	target	Participation in the ICJC, IPDC, the Grant Council, the Technology Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the NAPD	Participation in the ICJC, IPDC, the Grant Council, the Technology Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the NAPD	Participation in the ICJC, IPDC, the Grant Council, the Technology Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the NAPD	Participation in the ICJC, IPDC, the Grant Council, the Technology Committee, the Appellate Rules Committee, and the NAPD	
10. Implement the first five (5) Center for Internet Security Critical Security Controls (CIS Controls) by June 30, 2018.	actual	N/A**	Incomplete	Incomplete	Incomplete	-----
	target	N/A	Compliance with Executive Order 2017-02	Compliance with Executive Order 2017-02	Compliance with Executive Order 2017-02	

* This Performance measure was completed in FY2017 and has been replaced with a new performance measure for FY2020.

**New Performance measure for FY 2018.

Performance Measure Explanatory Notes

In FY2020, the SAPD was appointed to 618 criminal appeals from the district court, which is a bit of a workload increase from FY2019 (600). The SAPD's numbers are consistent with the number of felony criminal appeals filed in the Idaho Supreme Court. The average deputy's workload this past year was 58.08 units, which marks an increase from the past 3 years. The increase is largely attributed to having two vacancies to fill within the appellate unit and having two additional appellate attorneys take extended personal leave. As a result, the remaining attorneys within the appellate unit had to take on an additional workload. While 58.08 units exceeds the SAPD's goal to average 35 workload units per attorney, SAPD attorneys are given a weekly opportunity to refuse new cases if they believe their current workload is too high. SAPD attorneys will routinely refuse to accept new cases until they believe they are able to meet their constitutional obligations to their individual clients. Additionally, attorneys were permitted to obtain additional extensions from the Idaho Supreme Court in filing the briefs on appeal.

In the past, SAPD attorneys were able to file the initial Appellant's brief on appeal over 90% of the time without having to obtain more than a second extension from the Idaho Supreme Court. This is a marked decrease from FY2015 and FY2016 where SAPD attorneys obtained more than a second extension from the Court in 20% of the cases handled by the office. As to the CIS Controls, due to the nature of its work, the SAPD cannot be on the State server or behind the State's firewall and is legally required to contract with an agency independent from the State of Idaho for its IT services. The SAPD is diligently working with its IT provider to meet its cybersecurity obligations.

For More Information Contact

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