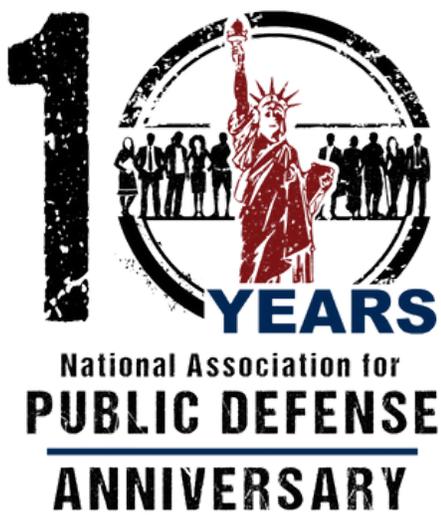




2023



ANNUAL REPORT

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DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



To our members and friends,

I'm excited to share our 2023 Annual Report with you. We have been so busy over the past few years that we have found it difficult to find the time to reflect on all we do. But this year is worthy of a special celebration.

2023 marks sixty years since *Gideon vs. Wainwright*, the Supreme Court case that established the constitutional right to public defense.

2023 also marks ten years since NAPD began. We started with only 30 people. No funding, no staff, no structure; just a passionate group of advocates with an idea whose time had come. They envisioned a national, grassroots network of public defense professionals of all types, sharing resources and building movements for change online. Here we are now, over 25,000 members strong, in all 50 states and 3 U.S. territories.

Just this year, we have trained thousands of public defense attorneys, social workers, investigators, and more at national conferences, on-site technical assistance visits, and virtual monthly meet-ups. We've hosted timely work sessions on urgent issues like recruitment, wellness, diversity, and workloads (and often found them to be deeply interconnected). We've been a voice for reform at meetings with the newly restored Office for Access to Justice at the U.S. Department of Justice. And we've advanced significant research on public defense systems for the Bureau of Justice Statistics.

At the same time, we have transformed how NAPD does business. We've updated our technology platforms, improved our governance and finance processes, and diversified our leadership. This behind-the-scenes work is hard, but it shows just how far we've come and will help us grow for another ten years.

Of course, none of this happens without your dedication. As much as we've grown, we're still the fierce, unruly, compassionate public defenders we've always been at heart. I'm looking forward to another year, another fight, another milestone celebration, with all of you.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'L. James-Townes', written in a cursive style.

Lori James-Townes
Executive Director, NAPD

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Fellow public defenders,

As of the publication of the 2023 NAPD Annual Report, I have had the pleasure of serving as President of the Board of Directors for four months. I am honored to be with you for this work and honored to serve as the first woman and first Latina in this position.

Executive Director Lori James-Townes, who is the first black woman in her position, has provided us all progressive, powerful and passionate leadership and has been critical in pushing NAPD to do more and do better for public defenders. She has been critical in ensuring all NAPD voices are heard. The energy and enthusiasm it takes to move through this work with such forward-looking hope is remarkable.

NAPD is really growing into its role as a community maker. Our reach is, frankly, astounding. Our Women's Conference saw yet again another vibrant gathering. Our Racial Justice Conference continues to inspire. This year with the National Workload Study, we grew even more in our efforts to facilitate information and communication on complicated and sometimes heated subjects. In the same way we as public defenders don't shy away from the tough stuff with clients, we at NAPD don't either.

You can read in this report all that we've tackled in this last year. It is a list of feats progressively larger and bolder, and reading it makes me feel proud to be associated with such a great group of advocates.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CJS'.

Cydni J. Sanchez
President, NAPD Board of Directors
Deputy Chief Public Defender for the New Mexico Law Offices of the Public Defender



SIXTY YEARS OF GIDEON, TEN YEARS OF NAPD

In October 2013, 30 public defense advocates held the first meeting of what would become NAPD. In their original concept paper, they reflected on how far public defense had come since *Gideon vs. Wainwright*, and where it had to go next:

Every day, facing what many would describe as insurmountable obstacles, public defenders across this country proudly stand next to their clients determined to protect the rights of the poor accused by the government. We fight to defend liberty, to convey dignity, and to provide a voice for our clients who have been relegated to the fringes of our society. We strive to protect the constitutional rights of our clients who—due to their poverty—are often treated as if they have somehow forfeited those rights. This anniversary year will likewise mark the point in history when public defenders assumed the responsibility as catalysts for change.

In 2023, NAPD marked another ten years of *Gideon* and ten years as an association:

*We're reimagining who we are, not settling even for what *Gideon* envisioned. We're listening to clients tell us what they need. We're rooting out our own racial bias and elevating more diverse leaders. And we're using today's tools to take on today's legal problems, like digital evidence and gender-based criminalization. *Gideon* is an important chapter in our story. But there's more to be told.*

NAPD is hosting a series of celebrations for its 10th anniversary, starting at the Leadership Institute in November 2023 and concluding at the Rise, Resist, Represent National Virtual Conference in March 2024. A "10 for 10" campaign invites NAPD's partners to make a special contribution to expand its programs and membership.

**IN THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL REPORT,
NAPD CELEBRATES A DECADE OF DEFENSE.**

10 YEARS

NAPD



FUND FOR JUSTICE

In response to members, and with the support of leadership across NAPD, an associated Fund for Justice was created in 2018.

The NAPD Fund for Justice is a 501(c)3 organization that exists to improve public defense delivery by offering tuition scholarships for training, funds for technical assistance, and loan forgiveness.

This year, the Fund for Justice is running NAPD's "10 for 10" anniversary campaign.

Learn more and donate at fundforjustice.org.



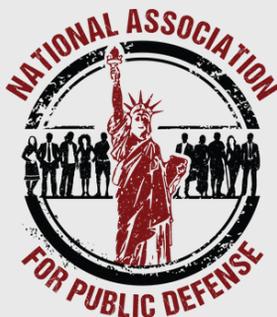
10 YEARS OF NAPD

Celebration

TEN YEARS, TEN REASONS TO BE A PART OF NAPD

Members' reasons for joining NAPD:

- 1** *"The Massachusetts CPCS collaborates and has second-to-none resources available on MyGideon. I joined to learn from other public defenders who do this work. I support the great work that NAPD performs for public defenders."*
- 2** *"I have found NAPD to be a great asset for a small office with two investigators."*
- 3** *"The information and instruction NAPD provides is top quality and unavailable from any other source. The collective wisdom of the group, and the encouragement that the members provide to each other is key to our success in representing our clients."*
- 4** *"I have attended a number of NAPD events and find the attitudes refreshing and the content top notch. I appreciate NAPD's approach of including all facets of public defense in their trainings, conferences, and overall ethos."*
- 5** *"I foolishly let my membership lapse, and I miss the incredible resources. There's nothing like it."*
- 6** *"I really love the focus on wellness and the focus on the entire staff and not just attorneys. NAPD does more than just pay lip service to wellness. There are actual sessions about it and actual sessions of wellness activity. I am new to the position of the head of the office so I need assistance with repairing and healing our office and dealing with management problems."*
- 7** *"NAPD is the only national organization devoted wholly to public criminal defense. I have devoted my career to public criminal defense, and seek to be an advocate for public criminal defense. Plus, public defenders are a special group of people, and I am honored to work among them."*
- 8** *"I believe NAPD is an integral partner in building a more just world and I want to be part of that community."*
- 9** *"I genuinely believe in the mission of the NAPD. I am hoping the NAPD can provide resources and forums that facilitate the easy access to useful information for my practice and my understanding of systemic trends and issues."*
- 10** *"Why would a criminal defense attorney and advocate NOT join?"*



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

This year, NAPD:

- Welcomed Brittany Gail Thomas (“BGT”) as its Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Director and Stephanie Thornton as its Social Work Training and Resources Coordinator
- Launched a new website and a new resource database, MyGideon2.0
- Trained over 3,000 public defense practitioners at conferences and events, and hundreds more through webinars and courses.
- Provided on-site training and technical assistance in Connecticut, Florida, Michigan, New York, Pennsylvania, and Texas.
- Celebrated the 60th anniversary of *Gideon v. Wainwright* by:
 - Releasing the Gideon@60 media Toolkit, in partnership with Zealo.us
 - Publishing an op-ed in USA Today with the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
 - Visiting Still She Rises public defender office in Tulsa, OK, on the U.S. Department of Justice, Office for Access to Justice’s Gideon tour
- Participated in a research team to develop and pilot the Bureau of Justice Statistics’ National Survey of Public Defenders and Census of Public Defender Offices
- Published over 100 blog posts from members and staff
- Hosted 29 listservs totaling over 3,000 subscribers, and regular virtual meet-ups for communities and topics in public defense

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Cydni Sanchez,
President (NM)



Elizabeth Miller,
Vice President (OH)



Lorinda Youngcourt,
Treasurer (WA)



Emily Hughes,
Secretary (IA)



Anthony Bennedetti
(MA)



Geoff Burkhart
(TX)



Deepak Budwani
(CA)



Terri Collins Green
(MD)



Herbert Duzant
(NV)



Darwin Hamilton
(TX)



Keeda Haynes
(TN)



Keisha Hudson
(PA)



Cheryl Hughes-Redd
(MD)



Martesha Johnson
(TN)



La Mer Kyle-Griffiths
(CA)



Dawn Mitchell
(NY)



Sharone Mitchell, Jr.
(IL)



Justine Olderman
(NY)



Mano Raju
(CA)



Brendon Woods
(CA)



Rebecca Yung
(TX)

"I couldn't be happier about the caliber of person NAPD continues to attract. If public defense in America is to change, these are the people who are going to do it."

- Geoff Burkhart, NAPD Immediate Past President and Executive Director, Texas Fair Defense Project

PAST BOARD MEMBERS

Edward Monahan

Katherine Mason

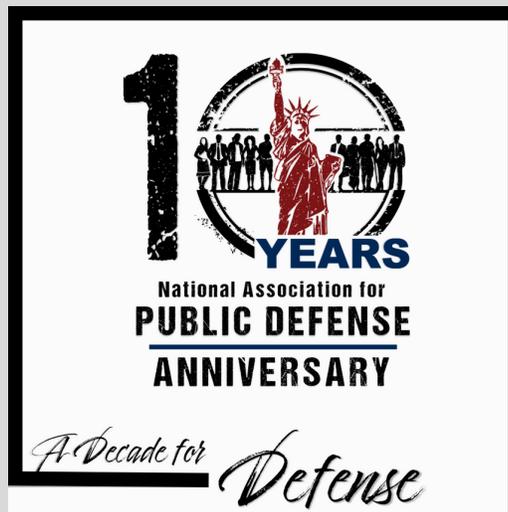
Nancy Bennett

Timothy Young

Aisha McWeay

NAPD thanks board members who have completed their terms.

They have carried the torch for justice and lit the way for the next generation of leaders.



AMICUS COMMITTEE

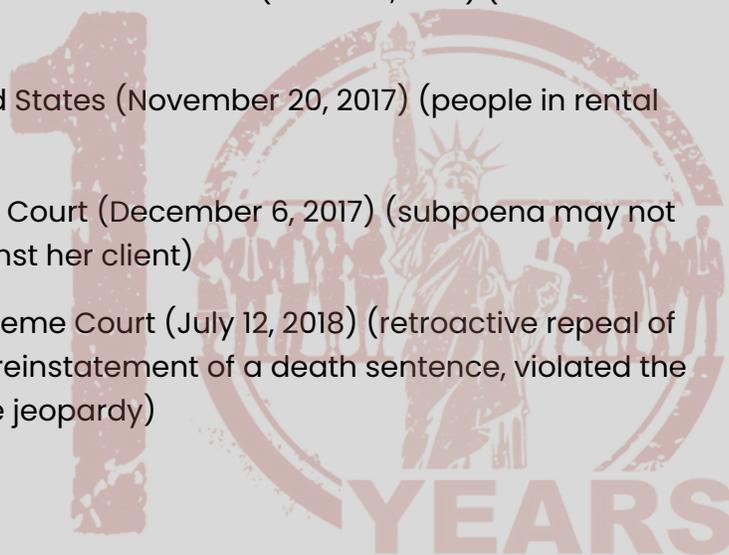
The Amicus Committee supports critical issues facing public defenders, assigned counsel, and their clients before the state and federal courts by filing amicus briefs at the request of counsel and approval of the Committee.

Co-chairs: H. Louis Sirkin, Of Counsel, Santen & Hughes; and Emily Hughes, Professor and Bouma Fellow in Law, University of Iowa College of Law

TEN YEARS, TEN BRIEFS

Since 2014, NAPD has filed briefs in over **50 cases**, including:

- 1. *United States v. Rodriguez-Vega***, 9th Circuit Court of Appeals (August 14, 2014) (counsel must inform client about near-certain deportation consequences)
- 2. *Re: Office of the Hinds County Public Defender***, Supreme Court of Mississippi (March 24, 2015) (judge may not select which public defenders appear in their courtroom)
- 3. *Doe v. Snyder***, 6th Circuit Court of Appeals (January 11, 2016) (retroactive application of a sex offender registration law violates the *ex post facto* clause)
- 4. *Elijah Manuel v. City of Joliet, Illinois, et al.***, United States Supreme Court (May 9, 2016) (pretrial detention can be challenged under the Fourth Amendment)
- 5. *Kevin Bridgeman, et al. v. District Attorney for the Suffolk District, et al.***, Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (October 24, 2016) (convictions tainted by faulty forensic analysis must be dismissed or retried with counsel)
- 6. *Berthiaume v. Smith & City of Key West***, 11th Circuit Court of Appeals (February 15, 2017) (unconstitutional strikes against gay and lesbian jurors not allowed)
- 7. *McWilliams v. Dunn***, Supreme Court of the United States (March 6, 2017) (defense is entitled to an independent expert)
- 8. *Byrd v. US***, Supreme Court of the United States (November 20, 2017) (people in rental vehicles have privacy rights)
- 9. *Sweeney v. Dayton***, Montana Supreme Court (December 6, 2017) (subpoena may not require counsel to provide evidence against her client)
- 10. *State v. Robinson***, North Carolina Supreme Court (July 12, 2018) (retroactive repeal of the state's Racial Justice Act, resulting in reinstatement of a death sentence, violated the constitutional right to be free from double jeopardy)



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

The Education Committee promotes effective public defense training through the creation of in-person programs, webinars, blogs, podcasts, and written materials that are accessible to all defense team members.

Chair: Lorinda Meier Youngcourt, Trial Attorney, Federal Defenders of Eastern Washington & Idaho

TEN YEARS, TEN CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

Every year, NAPD hosts conferences and events that connect and educate thousands of defenders. In 2023, the registration totals were:

1	Rise, Resist, Represent National Conference (March)	1,674
2	Missouri Leadership Institute (April)	58
3	We the Defenders Conference (May)	308
4	Darrow/Baldus Death Penalty College (May)	91
5	Color of Mitigation Conference (June)	89
6	Open Space: Recruitment, Retention, and Relief (August)	160
7	Open Space: National Workload Public Defense Workload Study (September)	203
8	Women's Conference (September)	715
9	Racial Justice Conference (November)	224
10	Indianapolis Leadership Institute (December)	195
	TOTAL	3717

SYSTEMS BUILDERS COMMITTEE

The Systems Builders Committee assists public defense program leaders in evaluating and improving their systems, training, consultation, collaboration, and on-site technical assistance.

Chair: La Mer Kyle-Griffiths, Santa Barbara County Public Defender

TEN YEARS, TEN STANDARDS AND EVALUATIONS

The Systems Builders Committee has developed key NAPD standards, including its:

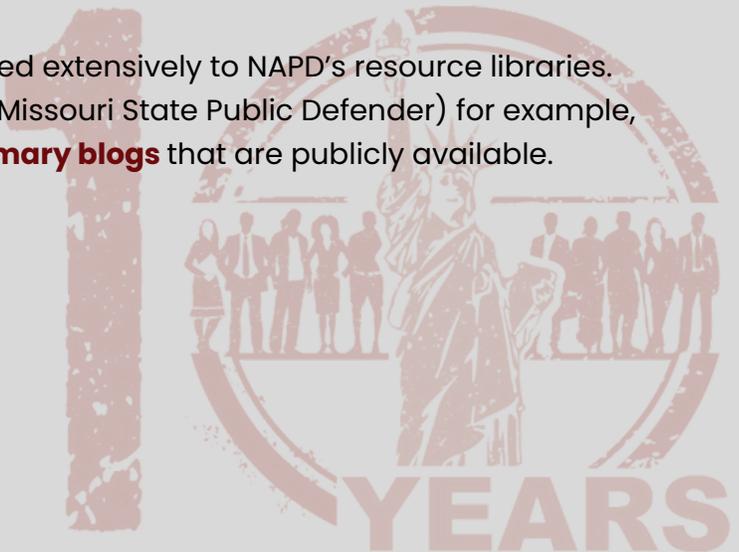
- 1. Foundational Principles**
- 2. Policy Statement on Public Defense Staffing**
- 3. Qualifications of those Serving as Public Defense Leadership**
- 4. Policy Statement on Proper Professional Space, Equipment, Confidential Communications with Clients, Supporting Services for Public Defense**
- 5. Policy Statement on Active Supervision of the Representation of Clients**

To help systems meet these standards, Committee members serve as ongoing mentors and provide technical assistance and assessment reports:

- 6. Harris County Misdemeanor Report (2021)**
- 7. Assessment of the Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Public Defender Division (2021)**
- 8. Assessment of the Texas Office of Capital and Forensic Writs (2018)**
- 9. RPDO: Making a Difference in Texas (2017)**
- 10. Louisiana's 16th JDC Public Defender's Office: Technical Assistance Report (2016)**

Public defense independence is a key issue for the Committee. It has helped write NAPD policy statements and letters to jurisdictions on independence issues. In addition, the Committee has a Strike Force (led by Fred Freidman, former Chief Public Defender of Minnesota's Sixth District) that has **promoted independence in 17 counties and offices in 12 states** by working with local officials.

Committee members also have contributed extensively to NAPD's resource libraries. Greg Mermelstein (Deputy Director of the Missouri State Public Defender) for example, has written **over 150 Supreme Court summary blogs** that are publicly available.



WORKLOAD COMMITTEE

The Workloads Committee promotes workload standards for public defenders through policy guidance and training.

Co-chairs: Bob Boruchowitz, Professor, Seattle University Law School; and Kawan Clinton, Deputy Attorney in Charge, Manhattan Trial Office, the New York Legal Aid Society

TEN YEARS TO A WORKLOADS MILESTONE

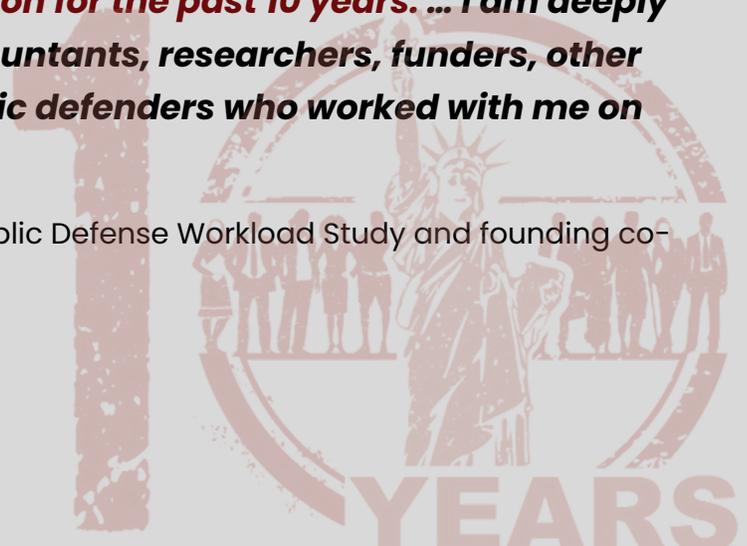
Reducing excessive public defense workloads is one of the major reasons NAPD was created. The Workload Committee's founding co-chair, Steve Hanlon, a systemic litigator and professor from Missouri, helped write Missouri's 2014 workload study and its national blueprint. Over the past ten years, the Committee has held annual summits and written policy statements (in 2015 and 2017) to bring workload studies and standards to more jurisdictions.

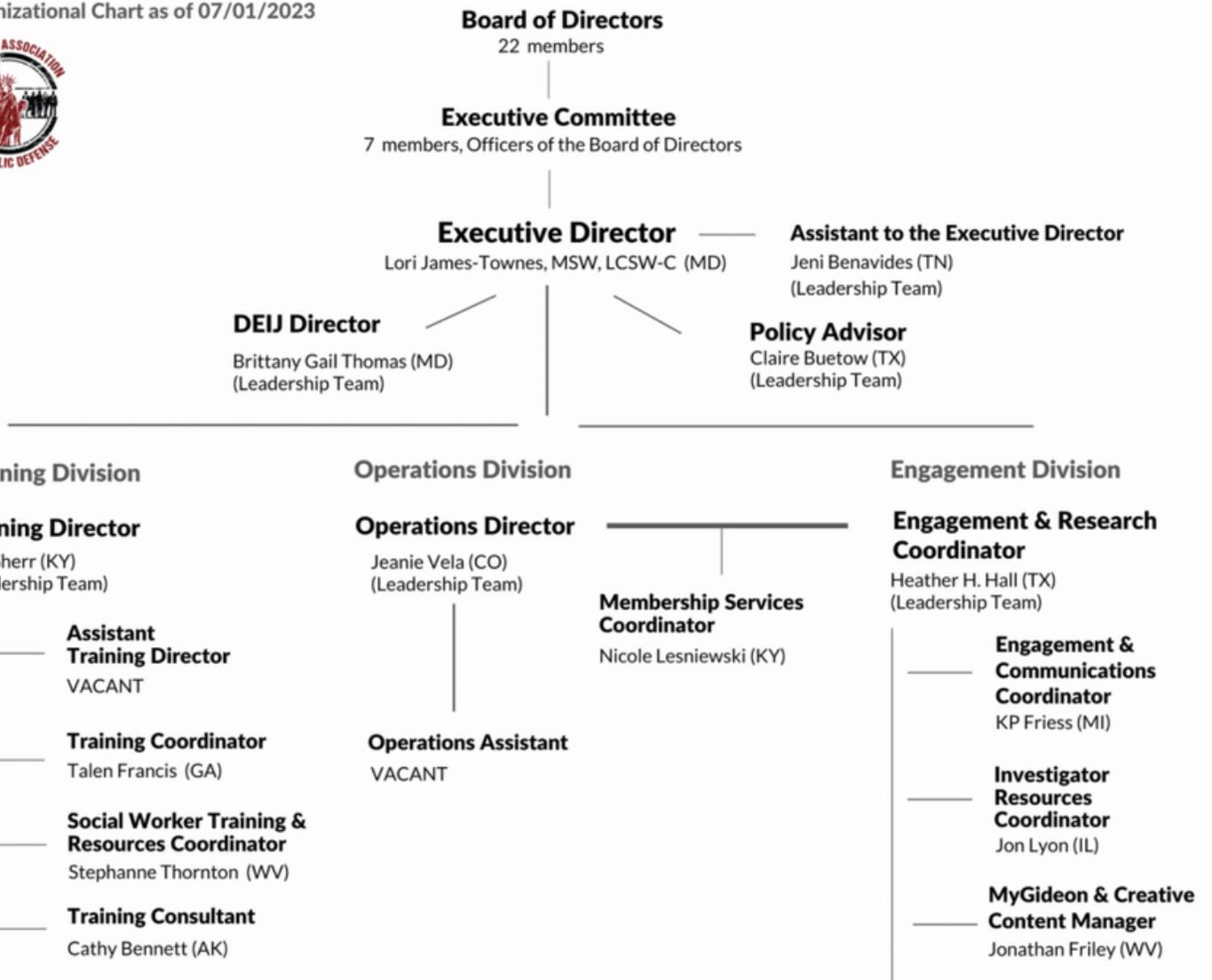
In 2023, the RAND Corporation (in partnership with Steve Hanlon, the National Center for State Courts, and the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid & Indigent Defendants) published the National Public Defense Workload Study. The study is the culmination of 17 state studies. It delivers credible, precise time estimates for providing effective representation according to Constitutional and professional standards. It marks a milestone in measuring and managing workloads, while showing current workloads are even more excessive than previously thought.

NAPD didn't publish the study, but members of the Workloads Committee have helped guide its progress since its inception and now are supporting its implementation by developing new training and standards.

"This is what I have been working on for the past 10 years. ... I am deeply grateful to all of the lawyers, accountants, researchers, funders, other professionals and especially public defenders who worked with me on this project for the last 10 years."

– Steve Hanlon, co-author of National Public Defense Workload Study and founding co-chair of the NAPD Workloads Committee





NAPD staff work in training; membership and engagement; and operations divisions, and on the executive team.



TRAINING

Since it began, NAPD has made high-quality, low-cost training available to all defense team members.

The training division produces a full annual calendar of in-person and virtual training events, from conferences, to webinars, to multi-week courses.

It also supports training directors through online meet-ups and by providing training resources on MyGideon.



“My first NAPD conference and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I returned to work inspired and rejuvenated - I didn't even realize I needed rejuvenating. It was wonderful to be in a sea of professionals who do the same work I do. I felt seen and heard, especially when discussing some of the challenges we face as mitigation specialists. It was a wonderful conference, and I am happy I went.”

– We the Defenders Conference participant

WOMEN
VIRTUE
SUMMIT

2023

RISE
RESIST
REPRESENT

#GideonAt60

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE



Investigators
Core Staff

We The Defenders

May 1 - May 4, 2023

Albuquerque

#NAPDwtdAP

Social Workers
Paralegals



**2023
EVENTS**

Iowa City

Featuring
Special Track
on
Intellectual
Disability

NAPD

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE

DARROW BALDUS
CRIMINAL DEFENSE COLLEGE

Penalty & Intellectual Disability



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

LD

LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

FOR PUBLIC DEFENSE




SAVE THE DATE

2024

**March
14-16**

**Rise, Resist,
Represent
Conference**
Online

**April
9-12**

**Wellness
Conference**
Traverse City

**May
7-10**

**Leadership
Institute**
Salt Lake City

**June
4-8**

**Darrow Death
Penalty College**
Iowa City

**Aug.
12-15**

**We the
Defenders
Conference**
Detroit

**Sept.
TBD**

**Women's
Conference**
Online

**Oct.
28-31**

**Racial Justice
Conference**
Montgomery

TEN YEARS, TEN WEBINARS

Since 2014, NAPD has produced **over 400 webinars** and archived **over 800 hours of training** on MyGideon, on topics ranging from trial skills to mitigation to racial justice to technology – and many more.

In 2023, the ten most-attended NAPD webinars were:

1	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: Beyond the Check Boxes to a Model that Works (January)	211
2	Courageously Raising Race in Court and Mitigation for Your Clients (July)	192
3	The Role of Neuropsychology in Developing Mitigation for Developmental Disorders (January)	168
4	Criminal Recidivism: A Neurocriminological Perspective (June)	114
5	Neurocriminology: A Review for Legal Professionals (June)	106
6	Head Trauma, Comprehension and Intoxication: What to Look for in Every Case (February)	98
7	Opening Doors and Pulling Up a Seat: Recruitment and Retention of Black Public Defenders (February)	76
8	Head Trauma, Comprehension and Intoxication: What to Look for in Every Case (May)	64
9	Excessive Sugar Consumption and Criminality: A Neurocriminological, Clinical, and Forensic Perspective (June)	62
10	Health Disparities and the Criminal Justice System: Introduction and Overview (September)	41
	Other webinars: The Brady List [PaaS] (March); How to Throw a #GideonAt60 Concert for Indigent Defense (February)	67
	TOTAL	1,199

TEN YEARS, TEN COURSES

NAPD offers in-depth, multi-week online courses.

In 2023, the ten most-attended courses were:

1	Effective Coaching (September)	50
2	Mitigation Mechanics for Mitigation Specialists and Sentencing Advocates (July)	49
3	The Critical Examination of Client Mitigation and Our Role in Uncovering It! (September)	40
4	Next Level Leadership (February)	37
5	Mitigation from the Start: Interviewing for and Influencing Sentencing with Mitigation (January)	30
6	Forensics (August)	24
7	Sustaining and Supporting Well-Being in Public Defense (October)	16
8	Resilient Leadership (February)	15
9	Representing Transgender and Non-Binary Clients (June)	11
10	Sustaining and Supporting Well-Being in Public Defense (February)	9
	Other courses: Train The Trainer: Representing Transgender and Non-Binary Clients (June); History Matters: Exploring the Power of History and Unleashing the Potential of Your Defense (October)	15
	TOTAL	296

DEIJ & RACIAL JUSTICE

NAPD's DEIJ Director works across its programs to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion and racial justice.

In addition to an annual Racial Justice Conference, NAPD hosts monthly meet-ups to continue conversations about DEIJ and racial justice in public defense year-round.



RACIAL JUSTICE MEET-UPS ON EVERY SECOND TUESDAY

- **SEPTEMBER** - RACE BASED EVIDENCE
- **NOVEMBER** - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HERITAGE MONTH
- **DECEMBER** - RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE RECAP
- **JANUARY** - CAPITAL DEFENSE
- **FEBRUARY** - BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- **MARCH** - SOCIAL WORK MONTH

DEIJ MEET-UPS ON EVERY FOURTH WEDNESDAY

- **OCTOBER** - IMPACT SCENARIO NUMBER ONE
- **NOVEMBER** - INDIGENOUS PEOPLES HERITAGE MONTH
- **DECEMBER** - RACIAL JUSTICE CONFERENCE RECAP
- **JANUARY** - DEI BURNOUT
- **FEBRUARY** - SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS & BLACK HISTORY MONTH
- **MARCH** - SOCIAL WORK MONTH



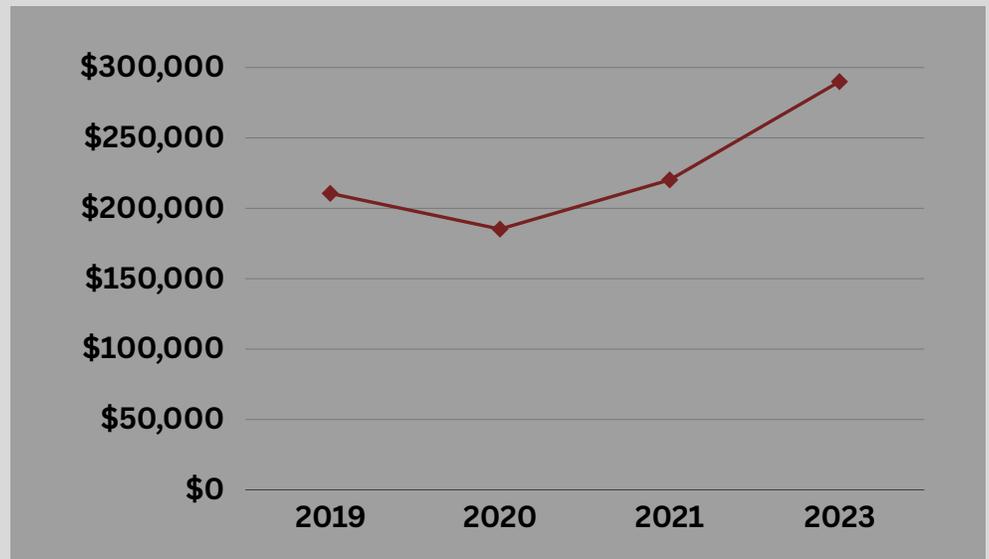
MEMBERSHIP

NAPD prides itself on low-cost, high-value memberships: just \$40 per year for individuals (\$0 for students) and lower per-person costs for organizations.

The membership division recruits and supports members.

Membership has risen steadily over the past year.

Membership revenue has increased by \$104,750 since FY20.



NAPD ORGANIZATIONAL MEMBERS

Alabama

Alabama Office of Indigent Defense Services

Alaska

Alaska Office of Public Advocacy
Alaska Public Defender Agency

Arizona

Arizona Public Defense Association
Loehrs Forensics, LLC
Mohave County Public Defender's Office
Yavapai County Public Defender's Office

Arkansas

N/A – individual members only

California

Alameda County Public Defenders
Federal Defenders of San Diego
Los Angeles County Public Defender
Nevada County Public Defender
Santa Cruz Office of the Public Defender
Office of the State Public Defender California
San Francisco Public Defender's Office
Santa Barbara Public Defender
Solano County Public Defender's Office
Tulare County Public Defender Office
Yolo County Public Defender's Office

Colorado

Archer Hall
Colorado Office of the Alternate Defense Counsel
Denver Municipal Public Defender Office
Office of the Colorado State Public Defender

Connecticut

CT Contracted Panel Attorneys
CT Division of Public Defender Services

Delaware

N/A – individual members only

District of Columbia

The Sentencing Project

Florida

Miami-Dade Public Defender
Office of the Public Defender, Sixth Circuit

Georgia

City of Atlanta Office of the Public Defender
Georgia Public Defender Council
Gideon's Promise

Hawaii

N/A – individual members only

Idaho

Idaho Public Defense Commission

Illinois

Law Office of the Cook County Defender

Indiana

Indiana Public Defender Commission
Indiana Public Defender Council
Lawrence County Public Defender Agency
Marion County Public Defender's Agency

Iowa

N/A – individual members only

Kansas

Kansas Holistic Defenders
Kansas State Board of Indigent Defense Services

Kentucky

Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy
Louisville-Jefferson Public Defender Office
Tiffin University

Louisiana

13th Judicial District Public Defender
Caddo Parish Office of the Public Defender
Calcasieu Parish Public Defender Office
Louisiana Public Defender Board
Mwalimu Center for Justice

Maine

Maine Commission on Indigent Legal Service

Maryland

Maryland Office of the Public Defender

Massachusetts

Committee for Public Counsel Services

Michigan

Barry County Public Defender Office
Calhoun County Public Defender
Clinton County & Gratiot County Indigent Defense
Eaton County Public Defender's Office
Indigent Defense Consultants, P.C.
Ingham County Office of the Public Defender
Kalamazoo County Defender
KB Law Office, P.C.
Kent County Office of the Defender
Lapeer County Indigent Defense Counsel
Marquette County Public Defenders Office
Michigan Indigent Defense Commission
MI State Appellate Defender Office – MAACS
MI State Appellate Defender Office – SADO
Monroe County Indigent Defense
Neighborhood Defender Service of Detroit
Northeast Michigan Regional Defender
Office of the Public Defender Allegan & Van Buren
Ottawa County Office of the Public Defender
Saginaw County Office of Assigned Counsel
Washtenaw County Public Defender's Office
Wayne County Assigned Counsel Attorneys

Minnesota

Minnesota Board of Public Defense

Mississippi

Mississippi Public Defenders Association

Missouri

ArchCity Defenders, Inc.
Missouri State Public Defender

Montana

Montana Office of the State Public Defender

Nebraska

Lancaster County Public Defenders Office

Nevada

Elko County Public Defender
Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services
Office of the Special Public Defender

New Hampshire

Kalosky Investigations

New Jersey

Jones & Ortiz P.A.

New Mexico

Law Offices of the Public Defender

New York

Brooklyn Defender Services
Center for Family Representation
Chemung County Public Advocate's Office
Legal Aid Society of New York
Monroe County Public Defender
New York County Defender Services
New York State Defenders Association
New York State Office of Indigent Defense Legal Services
Public Defender of Cattaraugus County
The Bronx Defenders
The International Legal Foundation
Wayne County Public Defender

North Carolina

NC Office of Indigent Defense Services
Federal Defender's Office- WDNC

North Dakota

North Dakota Commission on Legal Counsel for Indigents

Ohio

Clermont County Public Defender
Cuyahoga County Public Defender Office
Hamilton County Public Defender
Lake County Public Defender
Montgomery Co Office of the Public Defender
Office of the Ohio Public Defender
Summit Legal Defenders
Toledo Legal Aid Society

Oklahoma

Still She Rises

Oregon

Oregon Office of Public Defense Services

Pennsylvania

Allegheny County Public Defender
Defender Association of Philadelphia
Luzerne County Public Defender's Office
Montgomery County Public Defender

Rhode Island

N/A – individual members only

South Carolina

10th Judicial Circuit Public Defenders Office

South Dakota

Lawrence County Public Defender's Office
Minnehaha County Public Defender's Office

Tennessee

AK Investigations
Choosing Justice Initiative
Metropolitan Nashville & Davidson County Public Defender
Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference
Tennessee Office of the Post-Conviction Defender

Texas

Atascosa Area Advocates
Bexar County MAC
El Paso Public Defender Office
Far West Texas Regional Public Defender
Harris County Office of County Administration
Harris County Public Defender's Office
Hill Country Public Defender Office
Lubbock Private Defenders Office
Nueces County Public Defender's Office
Office of Capital and Forensic Writs
Regional Public Defender for Capital Cases
Restoring Justice
Texas Indigent Defense Commission
Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Public Defenders
Travis County Mental Health Public Defender

Utah

Salt Lake Legal Defender Association
Utah Indigent Defense Commission

Vermont

Office of the Defender General

Virginia

Virginia Indigent Defense Commission

Washington

ABC Law Group LLP
Cowlitz County Office of Public Defense
Pierce County Office of Assigned Counsel
San Juan County Public Defender
Snohomish County Public Defender Association
Thurston County Public Defense
Washington Appellate Project
Washington Defender Association
Washington State Office of Public Defense
Whatcom County Public Defender Office

West Virginia

West Virginia Public Defender Services

Wisconsin

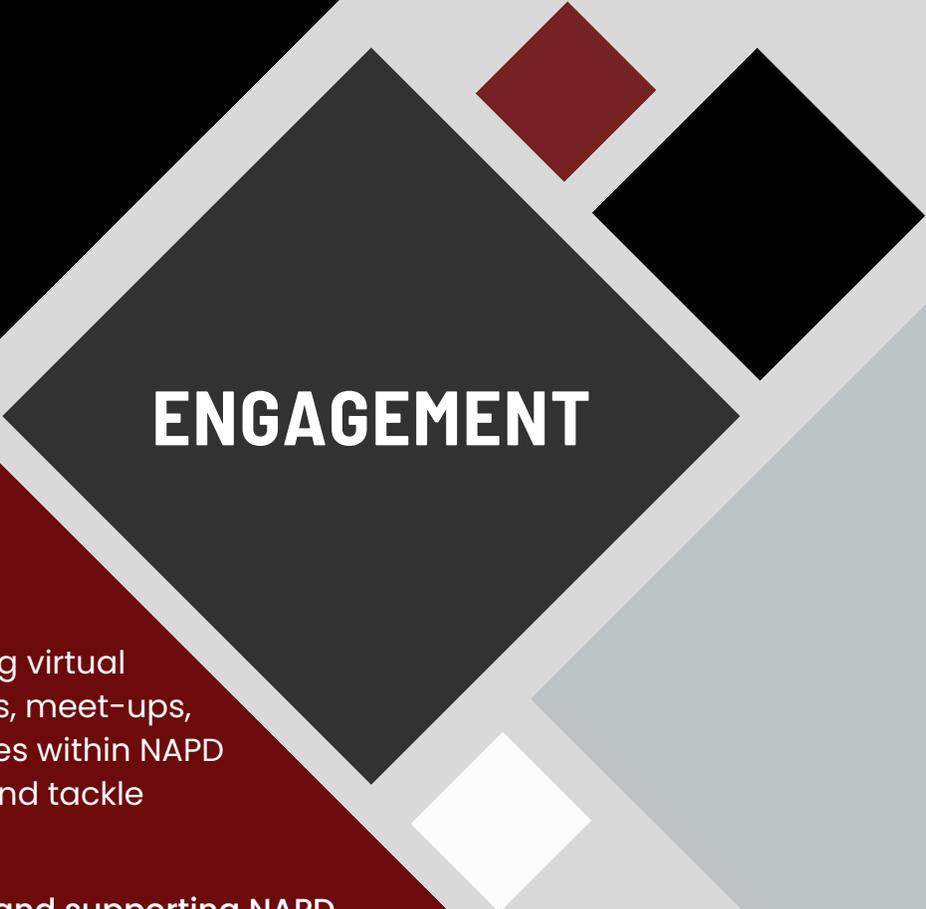
Wisconsin Public Defender

Wyoming

Wyoming Office of the State Public Defender

US Territories

Public Defender Services Corporation (Guam)



ENGAGEMENT

Through the work of the engagement division, NAPD offers its members and the public defense community an array of resources:

- **Community-building:** Hosting virtual spaces –committee meetings, meet-ups, and listservs – for communities within NAPD to network share resources, and tackle issues together.
- **Member support:** Recruiting and supporting NAPD members, and aligning its offerings with their needs.
- **Program support:** Developing resources for conferences and databases that are responsive to member needs.
- **Communications:** Bringing public defense news to its community and the public, and recognizing the contributions of its diverse association of public defenders.
- **Special projects:** Organizing events and projects to build knowledge, especially in collaboration with other organizations.

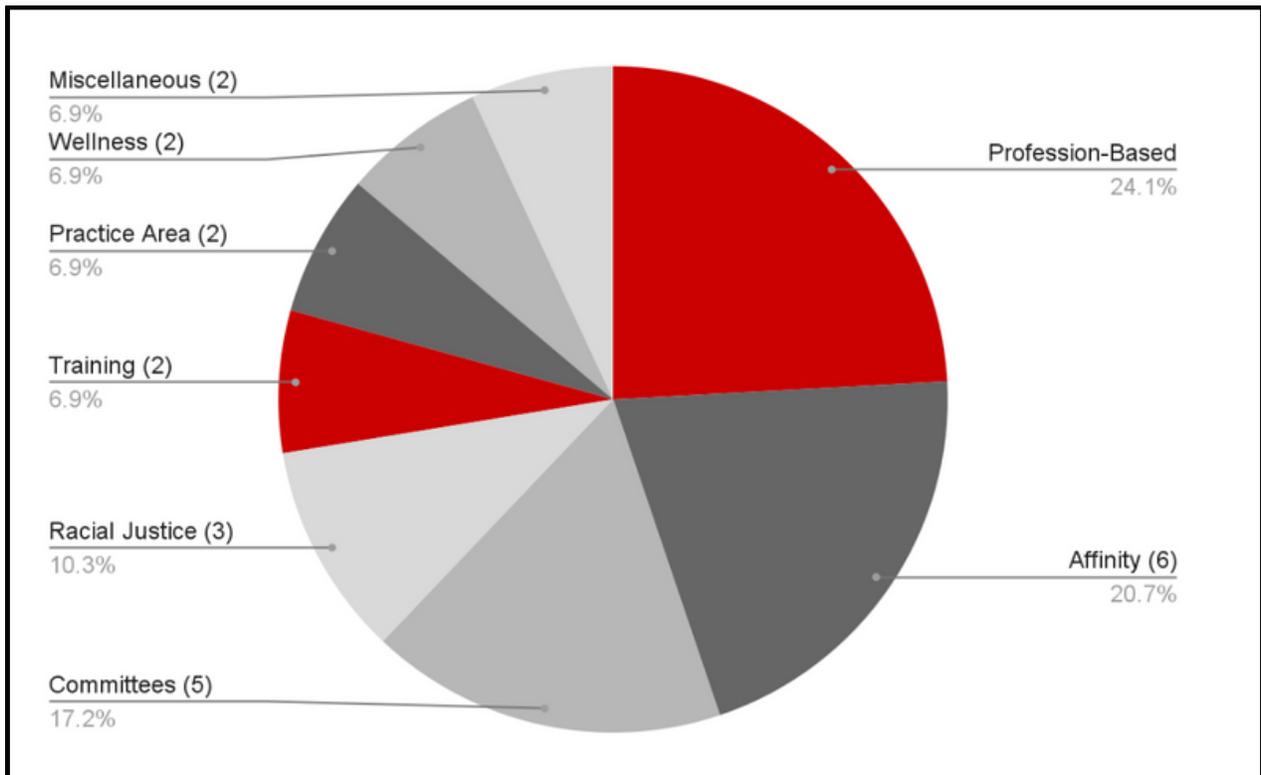
“The [Be Well Wednesday] meet-up leaves participants with the tools they need to sustain in public defense. As the lead, I know I find great joy in keeping this meet-up alive.”

– Tatiana Kline, Training Attorney, Office of the State Public Defender of California

Community -Building

The engagement division moderates 29 listservs with over 3,000 total subscribers who engage in a wide variety of topics. These communities also attend virtual meet-ups as often as every week.

MEMBER LISTSERVS



“As a young person interested in Public Defense, NAPD and the community that comprise it have been incredibly welcoming and willing to share their decades of expertise. Coming from a much different career prior to joining the legal industry, it is so refreshing to be surrounded by people who are so quick to offer their time, energy, and resources, to help develop the next generation of defenders.”

- Hunter Parnell, host of the Public Defenseless podcast

TEN YEARS, TEN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES

In addition to in-person conferences and annual events, NAPD hosts year-round online spaces for professional communities within public defense.

1 Leaders (for leaders of all levels)

- Listserv Subscribers: **788** (NAPD's most subscribed listserv!)
- Meet-up: Leaders participate in monthly Executive Townhalls.

2 Executives (for office directors)

- Listserv Subscribers: **177**
- Meet-up: **Virtual Town Hall for Executives**. Typically 20–30 defender leaders participate in these monthly calls. This meet-up started to discuss the crises of COVID-19, and has proven to be a valued space for defender leaders to get together, share updates, troubleshoot challenges, and stay connected to both national and local defender-relevant initiatives. In 2023, the group invited presentations from the 6th Amendment Center, Office for Access to Justice, Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center, and Texas Fair Defense Project.

3 Public Defense Trainers

- Listserv Subscribers: **146**
- Meet-up: **Weekly Trainer Calls**. Trainers across the country began meeting in April 2020 when training events across the country were canceled. The group has been meeting every Friday since to discuss and brainstorm how to create great training for public defense staff.

4 Investigators

- Listserv Subscribers: **425** (NAPD's most active listserv!)
- Meet-up: **Weekly Investigator Meet-ups**. Since March 2020, NAPD has had a total of 151 regular Investigator meetups (about 45 per year) and 3 Investigator Supervisor meetups, with over 5,600 total participants. Guests have included six database companies, technical assistance from experts in their respective fields, and nationally recognized speakers, such as Larry Pozner, Cynthia Roseberry, and Rodney Uphoff.

5 Social Workers (and sentencing advocates, mitigation specialists, and similar roles)

- Listserv Subscribers: **431**
- Meet-up: **Twice Monthly Social Worker Meet-us and Bi-monthly Social Work Supervisor Meet-ups**. In 2023, NAPD has had 16 social worker meet-ups, averaging 35 people in attendance. Topics included a three-part "Let's Talk About" series on Team Communication, the Report Writing Process, and Record Review and Record Digestion; Starting a Private Mitigation Practice; Data and Research in Mitigation Reports; and general consultation. Every other month, there were supervisor discussions with guest facilitators, averaging 22 people in attendance.

TEN YEARS, TEN PROFESSIONAL COMMUNITIES (CONTINUED)

6 Wellness

- Listserv subscribers: **463**
- Meet-up: **Weekly Be Well Wednesdays Calls.** NAPD members formed this group organically as a place to discuss well-being in the public defense profession.

7 Racial Justice and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (DEIJ) Directors

- Racial justice listserv subscribers: 199; DEIJ listserv subscribers: 88
- Meetup: **Monthly Racial Justice Calls and Monthly DEIJ Calls.** At racial justice meetups, public defense professionals of all types discuss ways to shed light on the way race is or is not used in casework and other advocacy, such as to change evidentiary rulings, juror perspectives, sentencing guidelines, and laws. At DEIJ meetups, people in DEIJ roles support each other and share resources to ensure that all employees and clients of public defense organizations experience a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment.

8 Rural Defenders

- Listserv subscribers: **68**
- Meetup: **Quarterly Rural Defender Network Calls.** Rural defender offices who are not part of statewide systems find particular value in a meet-up that focuses on their common problems. Approximately 15 defender leaders from a dozen states have convened to discuss workload standards, data and technology challenges, social worker integration, recruitment and small-town conflicts, among other topics.

9 Communicators

- Listserv subscribers: **40**
- Meetup: **Communicator Meetings, as needed.** Communications and policy staff strategize about messaging both at office and system-wide levels, share tips and templates for interacting with the media, and develop internal communications policies.

10 Core Staff (for paralegals, office staff, intake coordinators, and similar roles)

- Listserv subscribers: No listserv
- Meetup: **Core Staff Meetups, as needed.** Over 100 core staff members attended the first meetup, and their recommendations informed the core staff track at We the Defenders Conferences.



Member Support

The engagement division was integral to updating NAPD's membership database this year while supporting its thousands of members. Read more in the membership division report.

Program Support

The engagement division helped launch NAPD's new online presence this year. NAPD has been working behind the scenes for years to upgrade its technology to provide a better user experience, and in 2023, launched Phase I of the upgrade.

NEW WEBSITE AND MYGIDEON2.0

Publicdefenders.us is NAPD's public website, and catalogs dozens of NAPD policy statements and hundreds of blog posts, as well as job listings, and event listings. The new website features a fresh design, simplified navigation, and resources organized into searchable databases.

MyGideon.org is NAPD's members-only resources database. The previous MyGideon relied heavily on users navigating through topics similar to a table of contents, which led to duplication and missing resources under relevant topics. MyGideon2.0 now indexes resources in a searchable database.

With thousands of individual files, pages, and other resources still to migrate, NAPD has only just begun improving its platforms, and is seeking its members' input on their experience; get involved by emailing MyGideon@publicdefenders.us.

TEN YEARS, TEN MYGIDEON RESOURCES

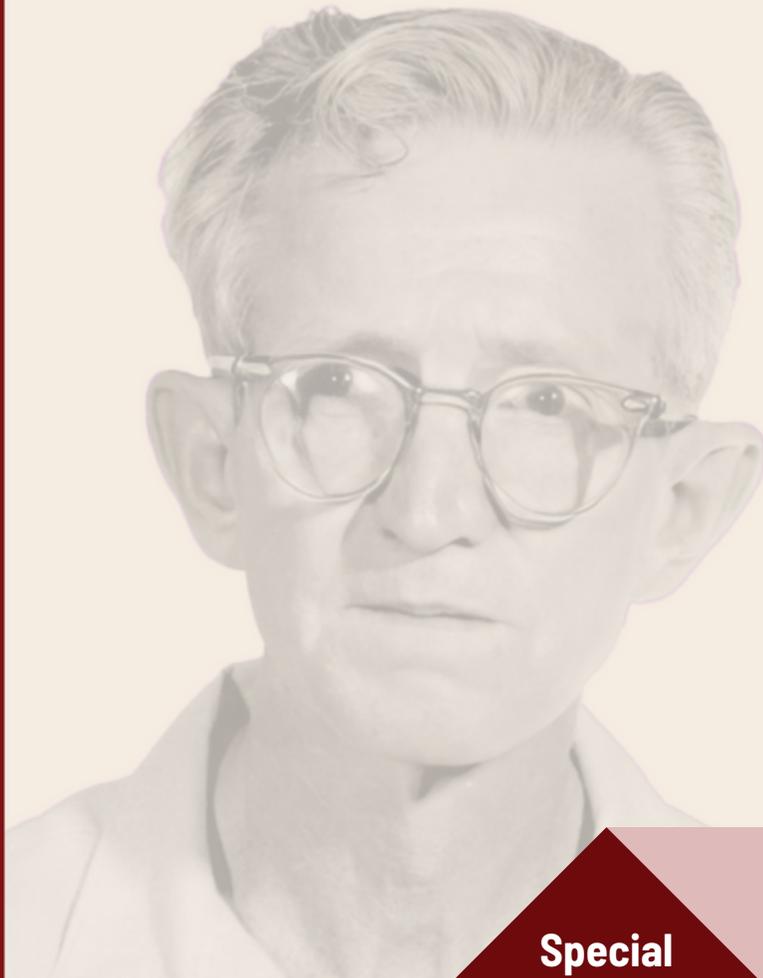
MyGideon1.0 included thousands of resources, including the following, now being migrated to the newly-launched MyGideon 2.0:

- 1 Webinar Archive:** More than 400 archived webinars on the most relevant topics in public defense, available to advocates in all professions, and taught by the nation's preeminent faculty.
- 2 Research & Reports:** Legal and academic research on public defense, archive in a searchable site.
- 3 Communications Resources:** Examples of social media policies, press releases, internal newsletter templates, annual reports, and policy talking points.
- 4 Social Worker Evaluation Metrics:** Comprehensive summary of social work evaluations in public defender programs.
- 5 Workloads Materials:** Collection of standards, commentary, ethics pieces, 5-year plans to combat excessive workloads, policy recommendations, and more.
- 6 How to Run a Public Defender Office:** Employee manuals, budget presentations, strategic plans, performance evaluations, training proposals, case management system information and more.
- 7 Profession-Specific Resources:** Resources for leaders, line attorneys, investigators, social workers, core staff and more, including job titles, duties, work product, training opportunities, and relevant literature.
- 8 Legislative Advocacy Materials:** Materials on major criminal legal system reforms that are transforming public defense.
- 9 Wellness Resources:** Recorded webinars from Be Well Wednesdays, NAPD's standards on sustainability, and other useful wellness tools.
- 10 Secure Library Space for Systems:** Kentucky and Massachusetts have their own state-specific resource libraries within MyGideon, and other states are encouraged to add theirs, at a much lower cost than a regular private contract, and with all the other MyGideon content stored just clicks away.

GIDEON V WAINWRIGHT

372 U.S. 335 (1963)

Any person haled into court, who is too poor to hire a lawyer, cannot be assured a fair trial unless counsel is provided.



**Special
Projects**

Gideon@60

NAPD partnered with Zealo.us to produce the [Gideon@60 Toolkit](#), which collects stories, graphics, sample proclamations, and communications guidance to help public defenders celebrate the 60th anniversary of the *Gideon vs. Wainwright* decision. Many of these media resources can be used to promote public defense beyond the Gideon anniversary.

Survey of Public Defenders and Census of Public Defender Offices

NAPD is partnering with the Urban Institute on the first-ever [Survey of Public Defenders](#) by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Statistics (BJS). NAPD is also partnering with the Urban Institute, National Opinion Research Center (NORC), and Dr. Andrew Davies of the Deason Criminal Justice Reform Center on BJS' [Census of Public Defender Offices](#), an update of the 2007 Census. In 2023, NAPD collected contact information for public defense providers nationwide that will help distribute these surveys and improve NAPD outreach.

Technical Assistance

In 2023, NAPD provided on-site training and technical assistance to:

- Kent County, Michigan
- Muskegon County, Michigan
- Michigan State Appellate Defender Office
- Florida Public Defender Association
- Concho Valley (Texas) Public Defender's Office
- Bronx Defenders
- Public Defender Association of Pennsylvania
- Connecticut Division of Public Defender Services

Programs with these partners focused on improving office management, handling conflicts of interest, and promoting diversity and wellness.

Response to the National Public Defense Workload Study

In September 2023, the RAND Corporation and partners released the long-awaited National Public Defense Workload Study. NAPD responded with a [press release](#), [guidance on the study's findings](#), and sample talking points (distributed to members), and hosted information-sharing sessions.

Bring Eyvin Home Campaign

Eyvin Hernandez is a dedicated public defender in Los Angeles, CA. While on a vacation, he was wrongfully detained. He has been imprisoned in Venezuela since March 2022. NAPD wrote a [letter to President Biden](#) in 2022 urging him to take action to secure Eyvin's release. The NAPD community has not forgotten Eyvin and continues to join his family and friends asking to [Bring Eyvin Home](#).



Communications

The engagement division shares public defense news and recognizes NAPD's communities through social media.



Facebook
Followers: 17k



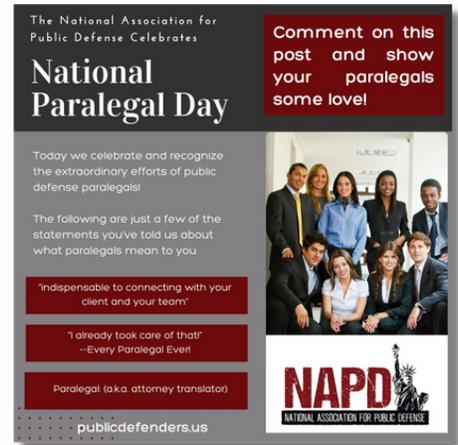
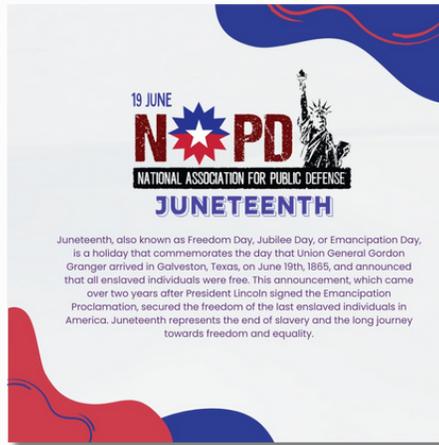
X
Followers: 6k



Instagram
Followers: 1k



LinkedIn
Followers: 70



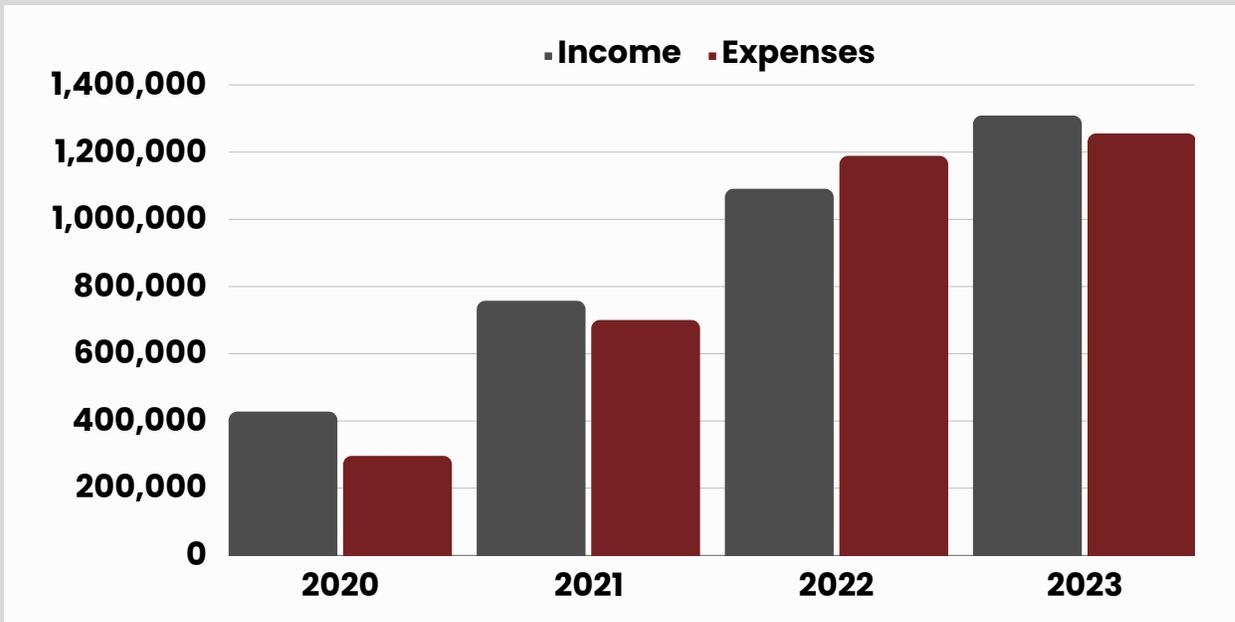
"The secondary trauma that pervades public defense hits all that much closer to home for those of marginalized identities. Your efforts and your very presence in this field are a gift to all those in need of our aid as they move through the justice system. We see you, and we thank you."

– NAPD statement on National Coming Out Day

The operations division manages NAPD's finances.

OPERATIONS

NAPD income has steadily increased since 2020.



2023 INCOME

- 57% - Training Programs
- 22% - Membership Dues
- 12% - Contracts & Grants
- 9% - Miscellaneous Revenue

2023 EXPENSES

- Contractors continue to be the largest expense for NAPD
- NAPD is focusing on adding and expanding staff capacity



NAPD is a 501(c)6 organization, as approved by the Internal Revenue Service.

NAPD sincerely thanks its members, donors, institutional funders, and collaborating partners.

www.publicdefenders.us