

COUNCIL ON PUBLIC DEFENSE

Authority – WSBA CPD Charter	FY20 Budget
<p>A WSBA Committee on Public Defense ("CPD") was established in 2004 to implement recommendations of the WSBA's Blue Ribbon Panel on Criminal Defense. Original membership was appointed by the President and confirmed by the Board of Governors. The CPD's recommendations were acted upon by the Board of Governors during FY 2007. One of these recommendations was that the CPD be extended through December, 2008 to study, focus and follow-up on unfinished public criminal defense, dependency and civil commitment issues.</p> <p>While the extended CPD made significant progress on the issues identified in its charter, it was apparent that maintaining and improving constitutionally effective public defense services in Washington required an ongoing committee with a mandate that is broad enough to address both new and recurring public defense issues. Having found that the CPD provides a unique and valuable forum for bringing together representatives of the bar, private and public criminal defense attorneys, current and former prosecutors, attorneys, the bench, elected officials and the public, the WSBA Board of Governors established the Council on Public Defense as an advisory committee of the WSBA in 2009.</p>	<p>Revenue \$</p> <p>Expense \$ <u>44,443</u></p> <p>Net \$(44,443)</p> <p>FTE Staff: .30</p>
Functions/Authority	
<p>The CPD Charter provides the CPD is charged with the following tasks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommend mechanisms to assure compliance with "Standards for Public Defense Services" endorsed by the WSBA. • Promulgate "Right to Counsel" educational materials and programs for the public, bench and bar concerning the constitutional right to counsel. • Develop "Best Practices" guidelines for public defense services contracts. • Address current issues relating to the provision of constitutional public defense services in Washington, including supporting efforts to ensure adequate funding is available. • Seek, review and recommend possible improvements in the criminal justice system which might impact public defense or the ability to provide public defense services. • Examine experience with Washington Office of Public Defense pilot projects and other programs and public defense systems to improve the delivery of defense services in Washington. 	

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- Develop recommendations concerning the most effective and appropriate statewide structure for the delivery and accountability for defense services.
- Continue to study and develop system improvement recommendations for the civil commitments process.
- Develop further recommendations for indigent juvenile public defense.
- Evaluate and make recommendations regarding the implementation of the death penalty in Washington.
- Develop performance standards for attorneys providing public defense services in criminal, juvenile offender, dependency, civil commitment, Becca and other cases to which counsel may be appointed.

Considerations

1. Possible Antitrust implications?
2. Possible First Amendment implications?