

Option 1

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Eliminate an Investigator

- Currently 1.5 investigators for 14 attorneys or a ratio of 1 investigator for every 9.3 attorneys.
- National standard in criminal defense is 1 investigator for every 3 attorneys.
- The average ratio in California is 1 investigator for every 4.6 attorneys.

Consequences of Eliminating an Investigator

- 44% of the cases reversed on appeal for ineffective assistance of counsel are the result of failure to adequately investigate.
- This is the single largest cause for IAC reversals!

Option 2

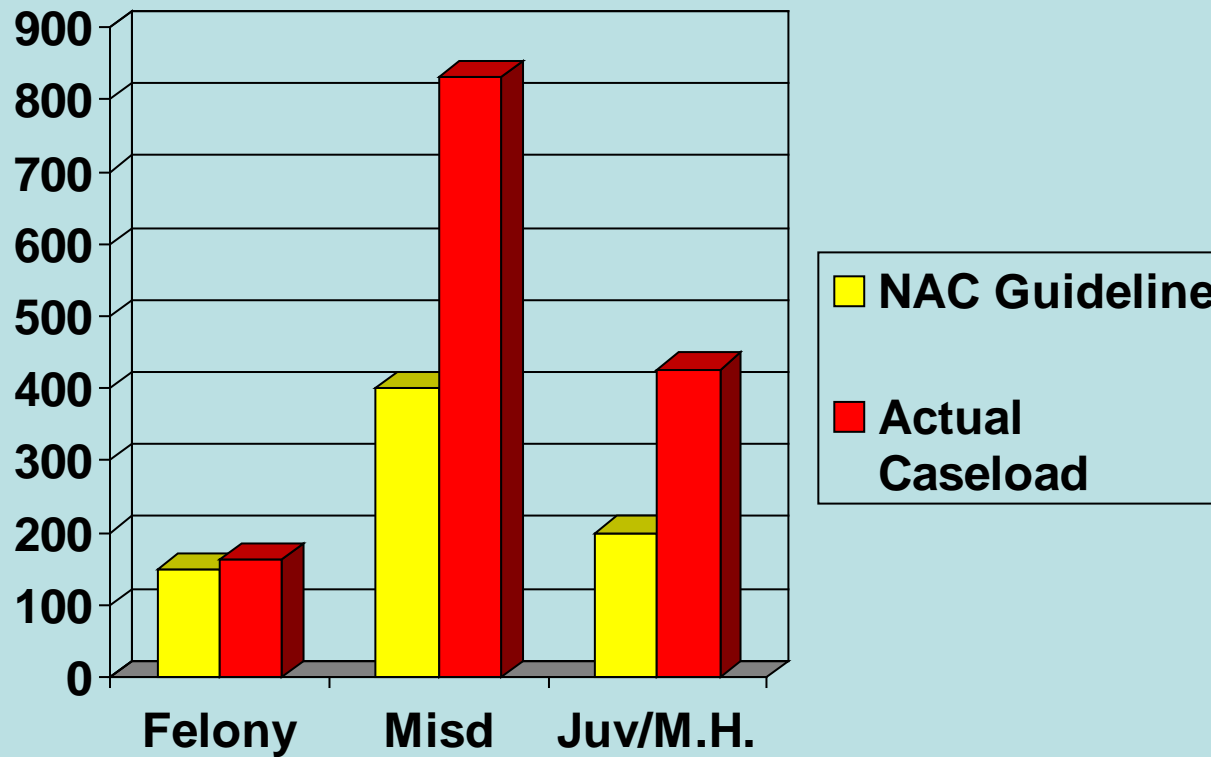
Eliminate an Attorney

- Currently we are staffed with 14 attorneys including management.
- All attorneys carry a full case load, including management.

National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards & Goals

- Felonies: ≤ 150 / attorney / year
- Misdemeanors: ≤ 400 / attorney / year
- Juvenile: ≤ 200 / attorney / year
- Mental Health: ≤ 200 / attorney / year

2009/2010 Attorney Caseload Statistics



Average Caseload

Total number of cases handled by the
El Dorado County Public Defender's Office
during fiscal year 2009/2010:

5706

Average caseload for each attorney:

407.5

California State Bar Standards

“Indigent defense providers shall not accept nor be burdened with excessive workloads that compromise the ability of the provider to render competent and quality representation in a timely manner, without the risk of damaging the mental/physical health and motivation of the providers.”

Accomplishing the Impossible With Our limited Resources

Because our caseloads are significantly higher than the national standards and our resources are significantly lower, a correspondingly higher level of supervision is required to insure that we are rendering competent representation, without the risk of damaging the mental/physical health of our attorneys.

Consequently:

- Each felony case must be individually evaluated before it is assigned to determine its complexity as well as the individual caseload & capacity of the attorney assigned.
- Misdemeanor caseloads must be constantly monitored to ensure that they remain numerically roughly equal and manageable.

Option 3

- Accept contract to provide Public Defender services to Alpine County.
- Provides \$50,000/year in sustainable revenue.
- Based on expenditures to date and projections, cut \$25,000 from our budget.

“The disparity in funding between prosecution and defense was also seen in counties having similar caseloads. As shown in Table 2, El Dorado and Humboldt counties have comparable populations and comparable felony and misdemeanor caseloads. Yet El Dorado spends two and half million dollars more on prosecution—a disparity of \$24.49 per capita.”

County	Population	Total Caseload	# Felony Cases	Defense Budget	Prosecution Budget	Per Capita Disparity
El Dorado	133,000	4,342	1,248	\$2,750,000	\$6,960,000	\$31.65
Humboldt	176,000	3701	1,415	\$2,890,000	\$4,150,000	\$7.16

Table 2. Comparison of El Dorado and Humboldt Counties