



Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Wednesday, January 8, 2014
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM
Morris Hall (17 HOB)

MEETING PACKET



The Florida House of Representatives
APPROPRIATION COMMITTEE

Justice Appropriations Subcommittee

Will Weatherford
Speaker

Charles McBurney
Chair

MEETING AGENDA

Morris Hall

January 8, 2014

- I.** Meeting Called To Order
- II.** Opening Remarks by Chair
- III.** Fiscal Year 2014-15 Priority Listing of Request and Possible Reductions
 - A. Justice Administration Commission
 - B. State Attorney
 - C. Guardian Ad Litem
 - D. Capital Collateral Regional Counsels
 - E. Regional Conflict Counsels
- IV.** Closing Remarks
- V.** Meeting Adjourned



**JUSTICE ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMISSION**

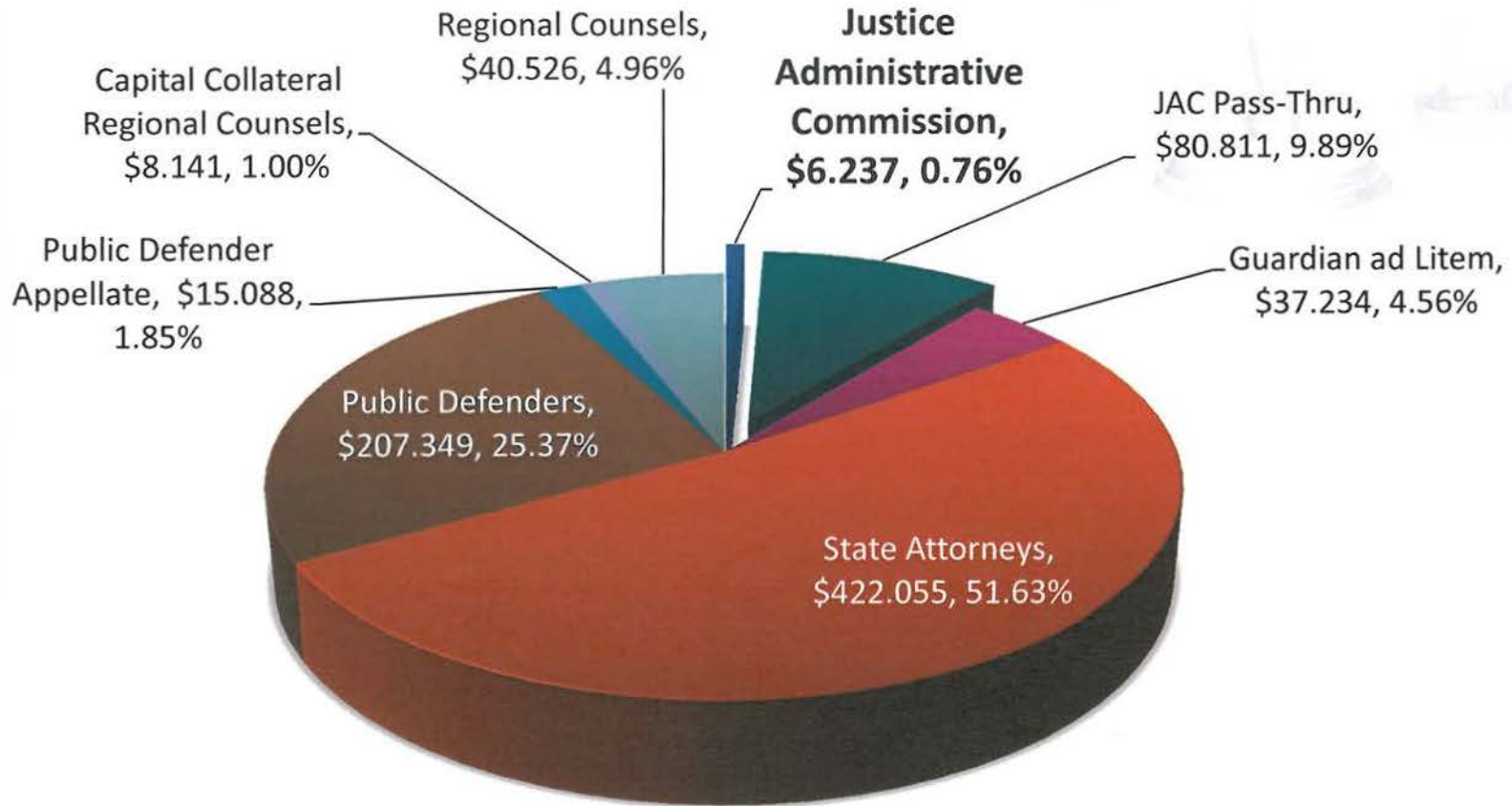


Justice Administrative Commission Budget Priorities and Possible Reductions

Alton L. “Rip” Colvin, Jr.
Executive Director
January 8, 2014

Base Budget 2014-15

\$817.44 Million



Amounts above are reflected in millions.



JAC Legislative Budget Request Fiscal Year 2014-15

- Information Technology Infrastructure Replacement – \$205,120
 - Help Desk Staffing – 1 FTE – \$67,760
 - Public Records Coordinator – 1 FTE – \$67,760
 - Financial Services Staffing – 2 FTE – \$135,520
 - Human Resources Staffing – 1 FTE – \$64,466
 - Senior Management Designees – \$43,000
- TOTAL: \$583,626



Schedule VIIB-2

Priority #1: Reduce Foster Care Review Funding

(\$4,608) General Revenue; (\$36,417) Grants & Donations Trust Fund

Priority #2: Reduce State Attorney and Public Defender Training

(\$1,676) General Revenue

Priority #3: Reduce Attorneys Fees for Representation of Disabled Children

(\$16,150) General Revenue

Priority #4: Reduce Pass-Through Funding to Public Defender for Clemency Cases

(\$12,500) General Revenue

Priority #5: Reduce Court Appointed Attorney Fees/Due Process Costs

(\$2,436,266) General Revenue

Priority #6: Reduce Public Defender Due Process Costs

(\$933,152) General Revenue

Priority #7: Reduce State Attorney Due Process Costs

(\$498,332) General Revenue

Priority #8: Reduce JAC Salaries and Benefits

(\$288,520) General Revenue (6.0) FTEs

TOTAL : General Revenue (\$4,191,204)

Trust Funds (\$36,417)



Questions?

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FLORIDA PROSECUTING ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION FY 2013-2014 LBR PRIORITIES



THE STATE OF PROSECUTION IN FLORIDA

- Assistant State Attorney turnover from FY 2008-2009 has averaged 16.1% and has increased every year since FY 2009-2010.
- Over 50% of all Assistant State Attorneys have less than 5 years experience.
- 67% of Assistant State Attorneys are assigned to felony prosecutions. The average caseload for these lawyers is 320 per year.

THE NEEDS OF OUR CITIZENS

- The effective prosecution of serious and career criminals (10-20-Life, Prior Prison Releasees, Habitual Offenders, Habitual Violent Offenders) requires experienced career prosecutors.
- Sex crimes, crimes against children, Sexual Predator Commitment cases, and similar offenses involving victims with special needs or issues require prosecutors with significant experience and training in handling those issues.
- Protection of the business community from sophisticated fraud requires prosecutors with specialized expertise in business practices, accounting and financial instruments.
- An increasing volume of Chapter 119 public records requests requires increased staff with the training in not only compliance but also exceptions to disclosure so as to protect the viability of on-going prosecutions, the identity and privacy of information related to crime victims and law enforcement, and the timely access of all persons to information that is subject to release.

LBR REQUIREMENTS OF FLORIDA'S PROSECUTORS TO MEET THOSE NEEDS

- Return Costs Of Operations To General Revenue
 - ✚ During Florida's budget crisis years millions of dollars in recurring general revenue was removed from the budgets of Florida's prosecutors.
 - ✚ Of that, a portion was replaced with Trust Fund authority that relies on the collection of costs of prosecution, traffic ticket fines, and other non-recurring revenue, which are unpredictable collections dependant on the efforts of persons and agencies other than Florida's prosecutors.
 - ✚ Re-establishing these funds as more predictable General Revenue will allow Florida's 20 State Attorneys to provide the resources necessary to make prosecution a career choice rather than a training exercise, and to provide the career prosecutors needed to staff recidivist prosecution units, sex crime and domestic violence units, white collar crime units.

- Dedicated FTE positions for attorneys and support personnel to handle Public Records requests
 - ✚ Time spent responding to public records requests is time taken away from courtroom prosecution of criminals.
 - ✚ The increasingly sophisticated nature of public records compliance requires not just clerical but also legal staff to insure compliance with the requirements of the law.

**THE GUARDIAN AD
LITEM PROGRAM
(A PUBLIC – PRIVATE
PARTNERSHIP)**

**PRESENTATION TO THE HOUSE JUSTICE
APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
ON
THE FY 14-15 LEGISLATIVE BUDGET
REQUEST**

January 2014

www.GuardianadLitem.org



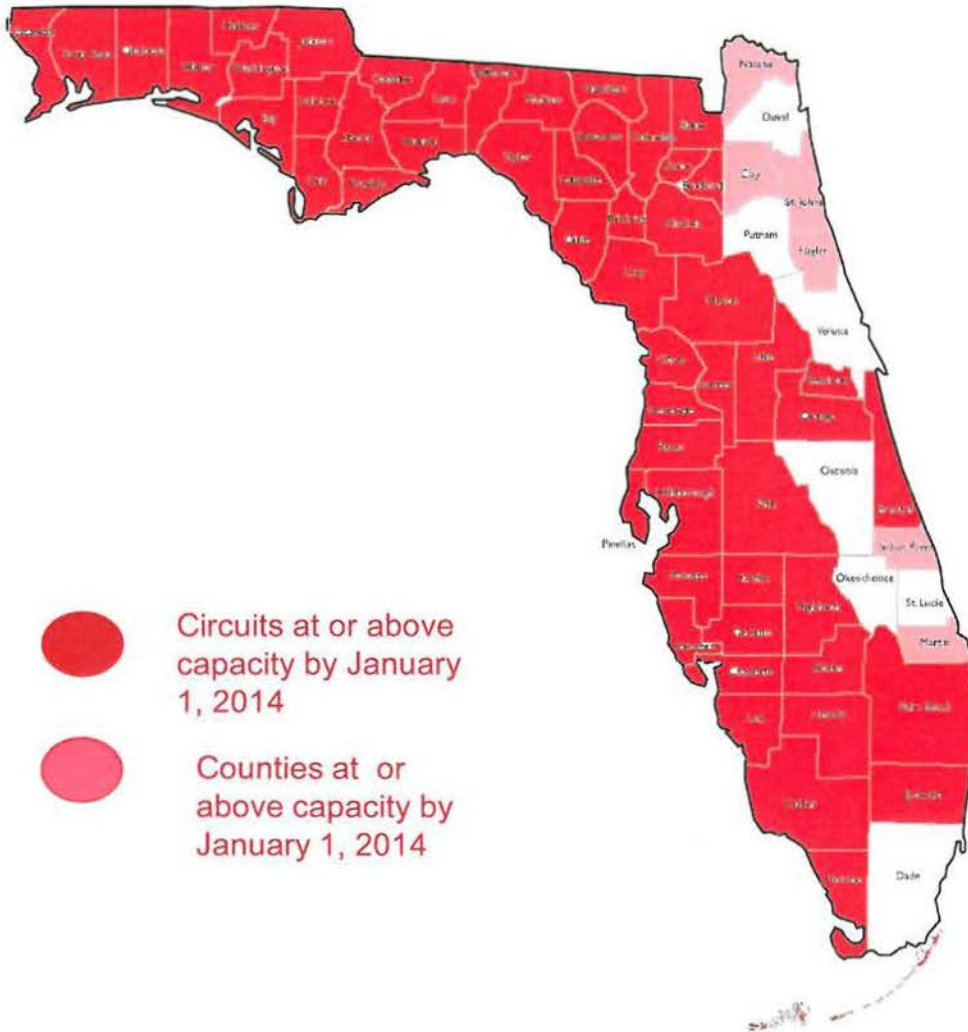
by
Alan F. Abramowitz
Executive Director



GAL Funding and Growth

YEAR	FUNDING	FTEs	VOLUNTEERS
2007	\$35.1 million	610	4,772
2013	\$34.1 million	590	8,838

We Are Almost at Capacity



- 15 of 20 judicial circuits will be at or above full capacity by January 1, 2014
- In the remaining circuits, some individual counties are at capacity.
- Our ability to support new volunteers in those areas will be severely strained

GAL Team Workload



Volunteer



GAL
Volunteer
Coordinator



GAL Best Interest
Attorney



Each volunteer supports 2 or
more children



Each
Coordinator
supports 38
volunteers



Each Best Interest Attorney
supports 150 children

Schedule VIII-A Priorities

1. \$6.1 Million Recurring Funding

- Reach 80% of dependent children
- Represent all children in out of home care
- Reach 10,000 volunteers by the end of 2015, our 35th anniversary.



Schedule VIII-A Priorities

2. Transfer Data Processing Services to Northwest Regional Data Center

- Savings and efficiency measure
- Transfer \$227k from Southwood Shared Resource Center to Northwest Regional Data Center. \$25,000 of this is non-recurring to be saved in the future.





Schedule VIII-B Reductions

GAL HAS ONLY ONE PROGRAM

- Total 5% reduction = \$1,707,787.
- The largest reduction is salaries and benefits; would eliminate \$1,361,082 and 39.75 FTEs.
- Other possible reductions are very small by comparison.

IMPACT

- Unable to supervise 608 volunteers
- Unable to represent 1,440 children
- Due to continuing high use by many judges, Program would lose quality as a result of being appointed to more cases than we can reasonably represent with remaining staff and volunteers.

Return on Investment

FLORIDA'S INVESTMENT OF \$34 MILLION YIELDS:

\$19,700,278 in volunteer time
+ \$ 1,501,920 in volunteer mileage
+ \$ 2,000,000 from Orange County Bar pro bono services

\$23,202,198 IN TIME AND SERVICES

THAT'S A 68% "PROFIT" FOR EVERY DOLLAR INVESTED!!

CHILDREN WHO HAVE A GAL VOLUNTEER:

- Do better in school
- Are 50% less likely to return to foster care
- Have fewer placement changes
- Receive more services
- Are more likely to be adopted, when appropriate
- Spend less time in foster care





- ***Eagle Award*** Winner 2012 Award Winner 2013,
Prudential -Davis Productivity Awards
- ***Angels in Adoption Award*** Winner 2012
Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute
- Miami Dade Minority Chamber 2013
Public-Private Partnership Organization of the Year



REGIONAL CONFLICT COUNSELS

House Justice Appropriations Subcommittee
Presented by Regional Counsel Ita Neymotin

Since the inception of the Regional Conflict Councils in 2007, the five Regional Conflict Councils (RCCs) have continued to provide quality representation to indigent clients in a fiscally responsible manner. Analysis from the Justice Administration Commission shows that the Regional Councils save the state millions of dollars annually. In order for the success of this model to continue, it is imperative that additional funding and other structural needs be met to accommodate responsibilities which were initially unfunded and to address increases in caseloads which have occurred over time.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- 1) Workload Issues:** All five RCCs are requesting additional positions (with rate, salaries and benefits) in response to increased workload across the board. These positions include capital attorneys, appellate attorneys, and mental health positions.
- 2) Due Process funding:** The RCCs budgets were cut several years ago and were never restored to their original funding levels. In addition, increased costs from appellate transcripts and the substantial costs associated with capital cases have further strained the RCCs limited due process budgets. Increased due process funding is requested to ensure that the RCCs can continue to fulfill their mission to provide quality representation to our clients.
- 3) Technology funding:** The RCCs are requesting additional funding for positions and equipment to meet the Supreme Court mandate for e-filing. Currently, only a few counties throughout the state are providing technology funding to RCC offices (pursuant to s. 28.24 F.S.), therefore all technology expenses are paid out of the RCCs existing budgets.
- 4) Regional Counsel Salary:** Section 25.5301(4) F.S. prohibits the salaries of assistants from exceeding the Regional Counsel's salary. Therefore the RCCs are requesting an increase in the base salary and rate of the Regional Counsel in an effort to provide flexibility and competitiveness in hiring and setting the salaries of the Assistant Regional Councils.
- 5) Individual priorities:** Each Regional Counsel has requests specific to their individual region. These requests include funding for office space, additional positions for post-conviction matters, increased rate to fill vacant positions, funding for attorney training, and additional positions for newly created specialty court divisions.