



# **Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender FY2014 Budget Presentation**

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**October 24, 2013**

# Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

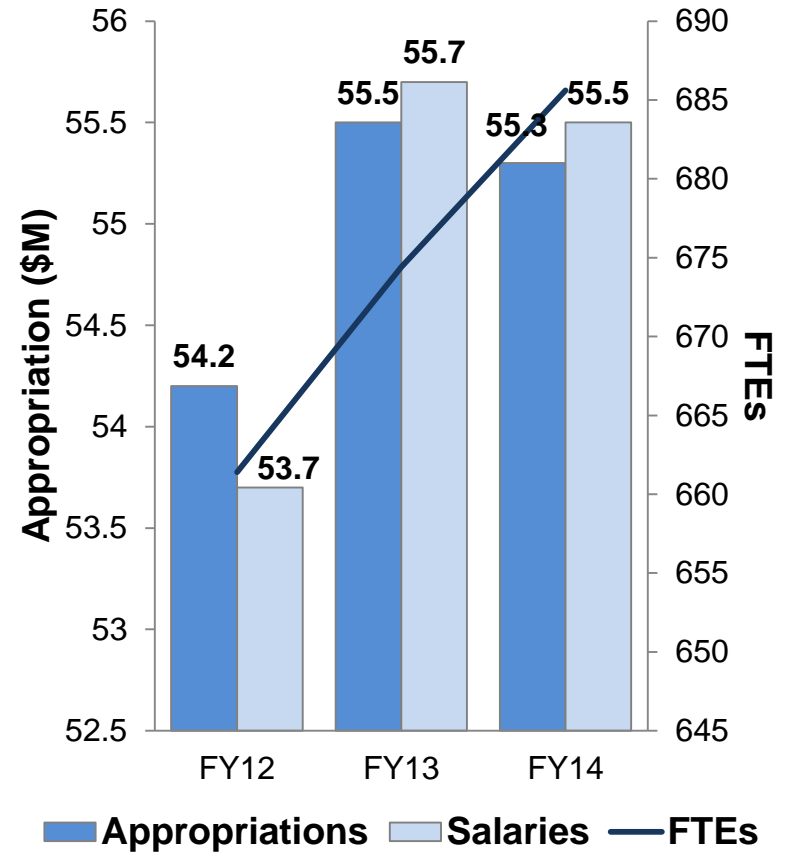
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## Mission

*Protect the rights, liberties, and dignity of each person whose case has been entrusted to the Public Defender's Office. Provide the finest legal representation by providing clients with attorneys who have adequate time and resources to address the unique facts of their cases.*

## Budget and staffing



# Cook County Public Defender – FY2014 budget highlights

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## Highlights

- Increased staffing in the Bond Court Reconsideration Unit in the interest of reducing the jail population.
- Actively involved in Veterans Court, Elder Court, Other Specialty Courts, Adult Redeploy Program, Mitigation Project, Forensic Sciences Project, Wrongful Convictions Project and resentencing hearings for juvenile clients who received life without parole sentences in light of the recent U.S. Supreme court case, *Miller vs. Alabama*.
- Designed, built and implemented the “Court Clerk Data Download” project to facilitate inputting case data from the Clerk’s system into the Public Defender’s Legal Edge case management system.
- Monitored the number of defendants’ motions for continuances requested after the State has tendered all discovery and answered ready for trial in Class 4 felony drug cases to ensure that clients with non-complex cases are represented adequately and efficiently.
- Increased the use of technology in courtroom advocacy by creating a Trial Support Division which is designed to assist and train staff in the use of courtroom presentation hardware and software.

# Cook County Public Defender – FY2013 Accomplishments

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## Accomplishments

- The office achieved its goal of receiving client complaints for 0% of open cases.
- In the last quarter of 2013, this office implemented a pilot project to reduce time of disposition in non-complex cases.
- Ensured that attorneys receive the best possible case preparation support with the use of the upgraded case management system which allows this office to download case data from the Clerks of Court's office.
- Provided attorneys with professional training in compliance with Illinois Minimum Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) to ensure excellence in advocacy and effective legal representation.
- Completed performance evaluations for 90% of the attorney staff.

# Public Defender Office – 2014 STAR goals and targets

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Performance Metric	FY2012 Actual	FY2013 Projected YE	FY2014 Target
% of open cases for which client filed complaints	0	0	0
% of attorneys receiving performance reviews	0	90%	100%
Number of MCLE programs offered	138	150	175

## MCLE PROGRAMS OFFERED

