

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

FY2022 Budget Presentation



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Public Defender

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FY2022 Budget Presentation



Our Mission

The Public Defender protects the fundamental rights, liberties, and dignity of each person whose case has been entrusted to the us by providing the finest legal representation.

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FY2022 Budget Presentation



FY22 Budget Addresses:

- 1. Caseloads/Workloads**
- 2. Records Maintenance and Retention**
- 3. Professional Development**
- 4. Technology**



Caseloads/Workloads

Challenge No. 1:

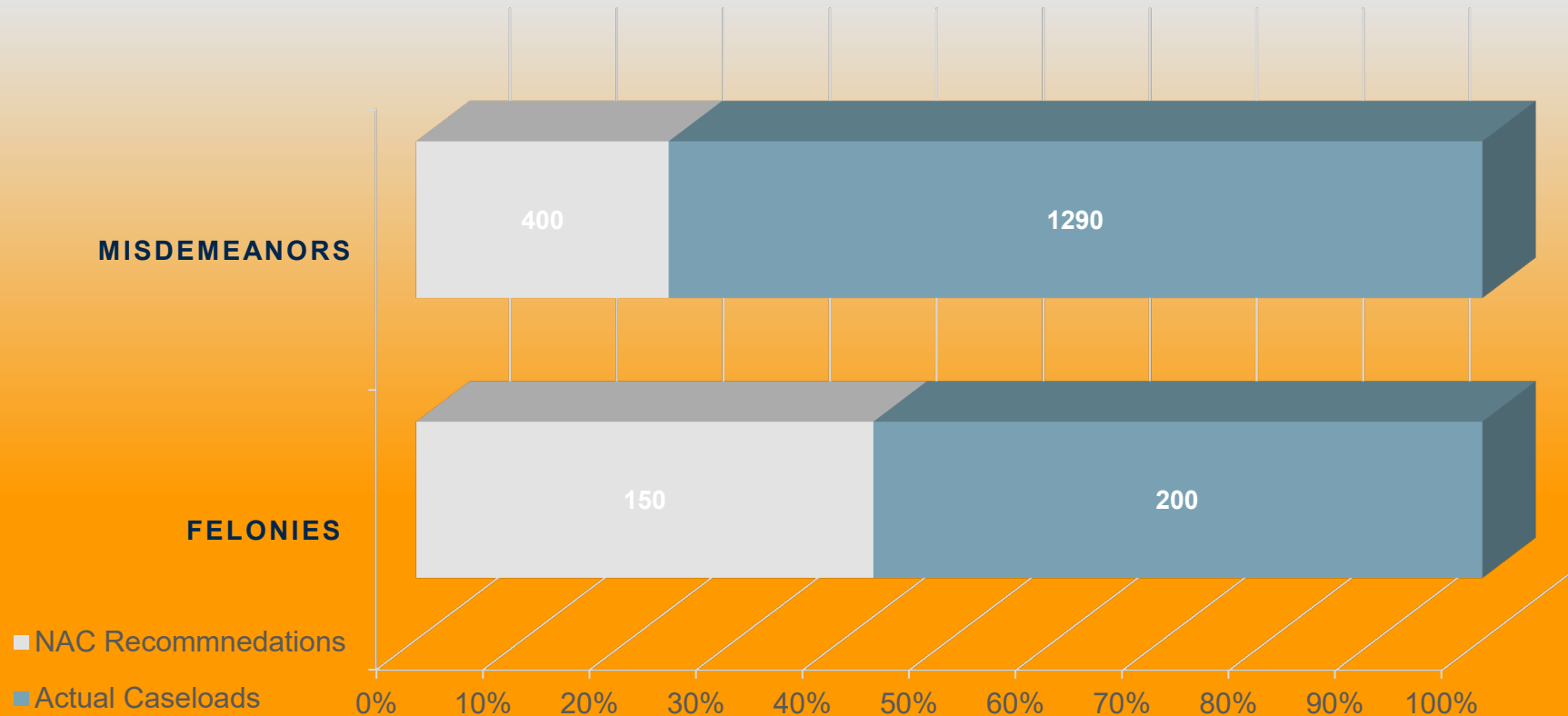
- Caseloads are too high
- More support is required for the changing legal landscape

How the PD's FY22 budget request starts to address the problem:

- 51 new FTE's:
 - Attorneys, mitigators, paralegals, recruiters, supervisors, etc.



NAC Caseload Standards vs. Public Defender Caseloads in 2019

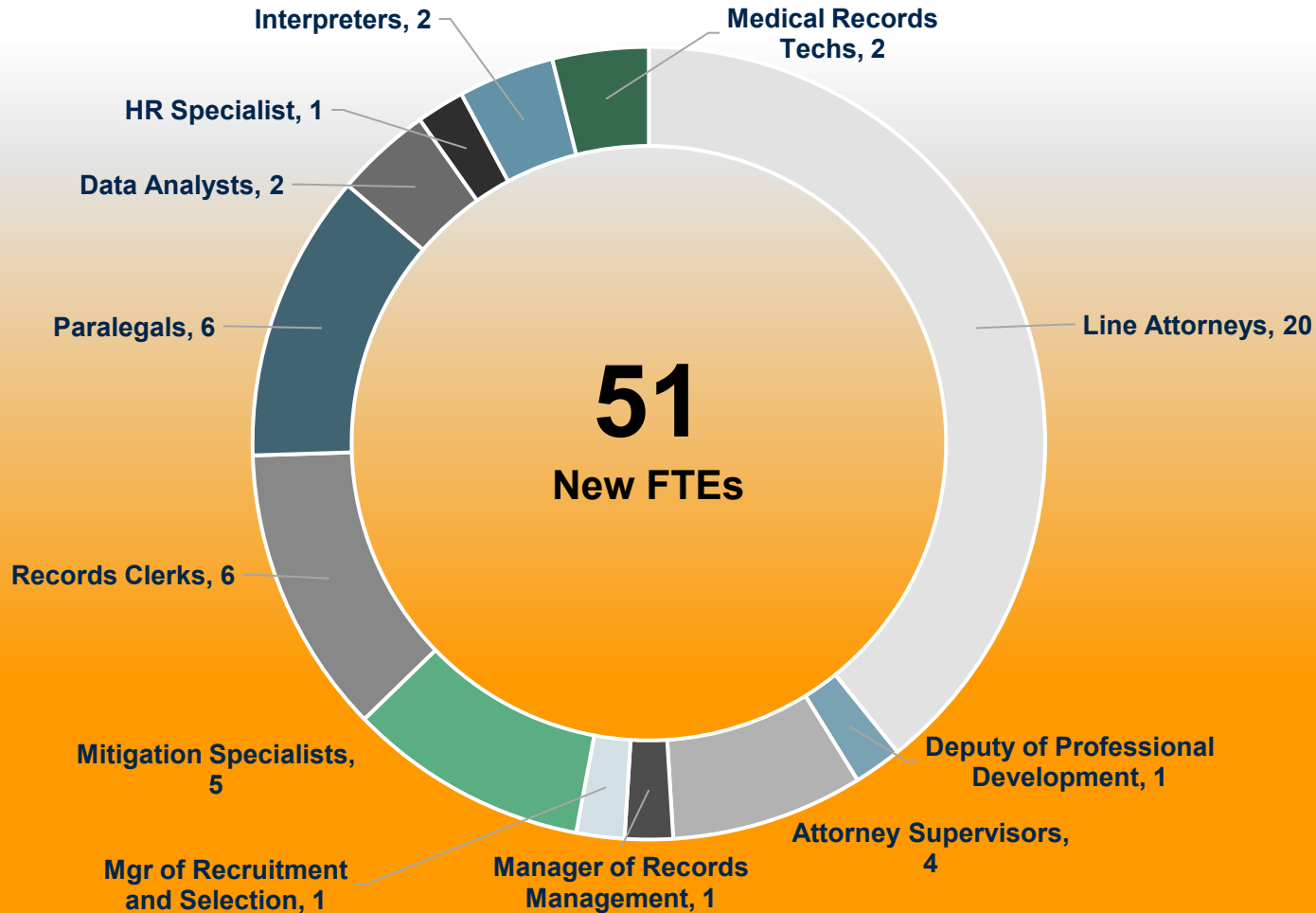


Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

FY2022 Budget Presentation



FY22 New FTE Positions





Records Maintenance and Retention

Challenge No. 2:

- Physical storage and maintenance of files
 - Current system is antiquated
 - We are legally mandated to retain paper files, for example:
 - Homicides - retain for 20 years after completion of sentence

How the PD's FY22 budget request starts to address the problem:

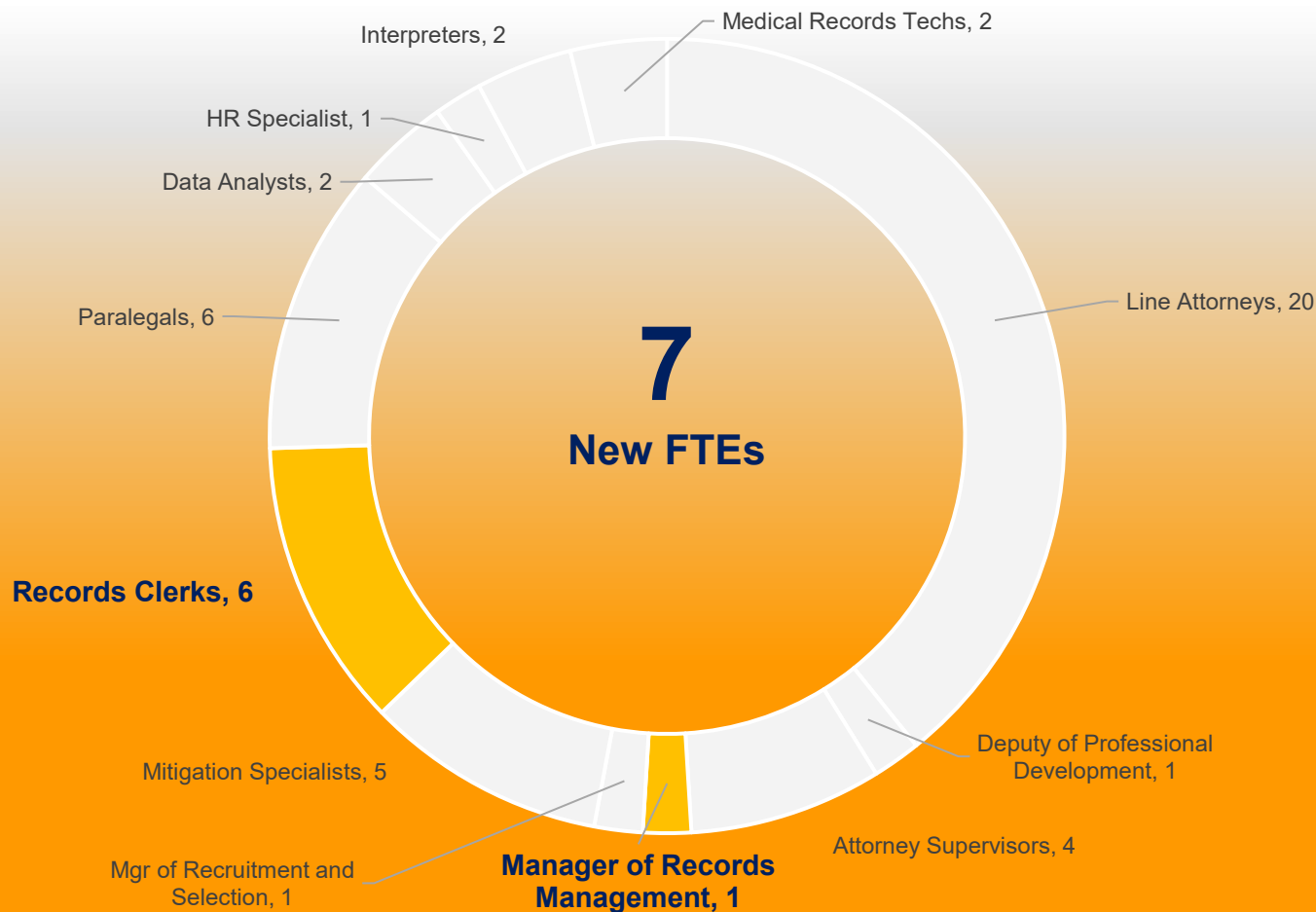
- Building a file maintenance team to address current issues and work towards digitization
- FY22 budget request includes six file maintenance clerks and a Records Manager

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

FY2022 Budget Presentation



FY22 New FTE Positions (Records Maintenance and Retention)





Professional Development

Challenge No. 3:

- Current training mostly focuses on attorneys' professional needs:
 - Nutshell
 - New Attorney Training
 - Outside Training
- Need to also address professional development of other employees in the Office

How the PD's FY22 budget request starts to address the problem:

- Increasing our professional development budget by \$50K
- One new FTE

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

FY2022 Budget Presentation

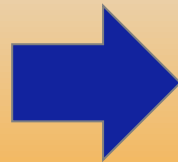


Professional Development

Current Training Division

Chief of Professional Development

Support Staff



FY2022 Request

Deputy of Professional Development

Support Staff

Manager of Training for Attorneys

Manager of Training for Investigations

Manager of Training for Other Professionals



Technology

Challenge No. 4:

- Need to scan, maintain and store files
- Use of technology at trial
- Investigator technology needs (laptops, MiFi's, etc.)

How the PD's FY22 budget request starts to address the problem:

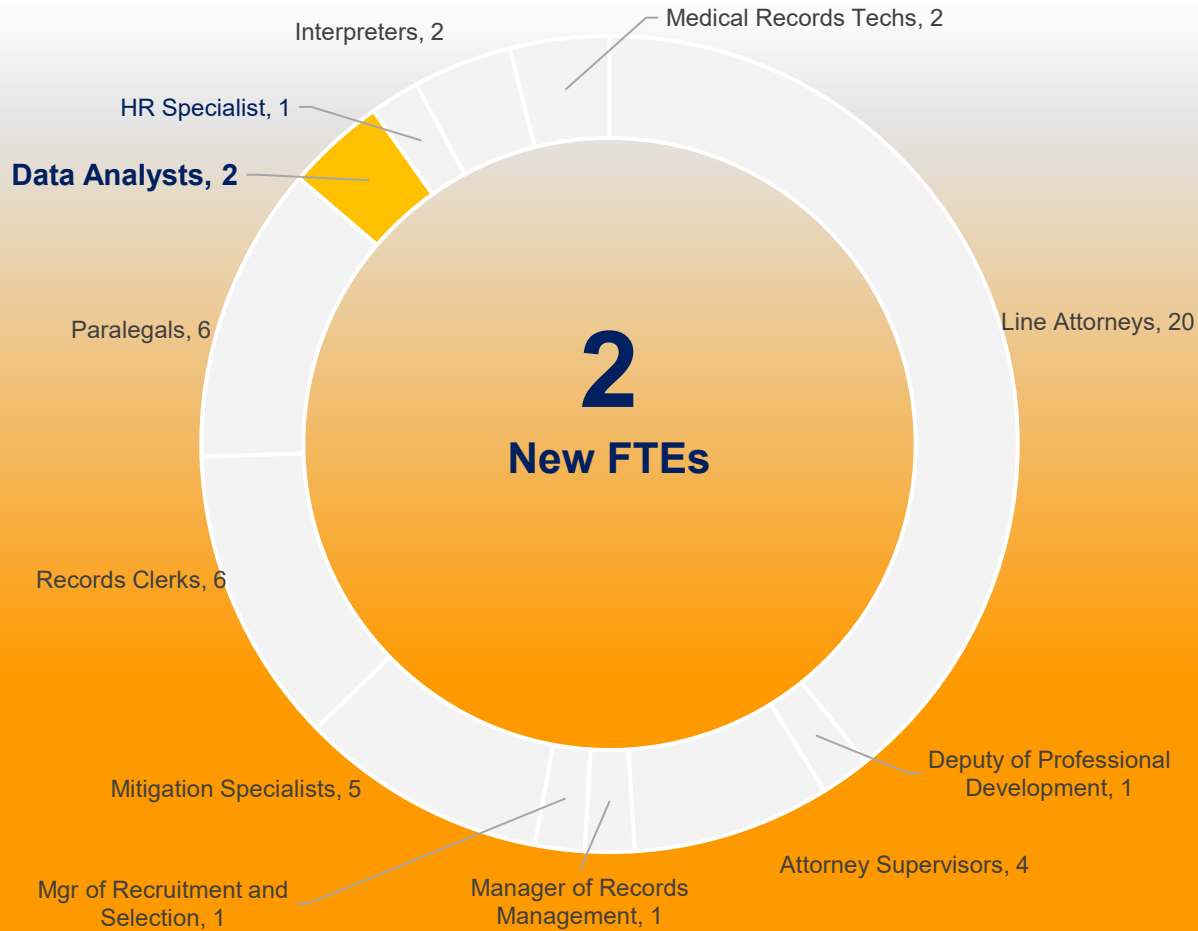
- Conduct Technology Audit
- FY22 capital for computer refresh is \$370K higher than FY21
- Two new FTE's to support trial technology division
- Increase in budgetary line to accommodate Investigation needs

Law Office of the Cook County Public Defender

FY2022 Budget Presentation



FY22 New FTE Positions (Technology)





Thank you!!

Questions?