

State Appellate Defender Office

Est. 1969

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Appropriations - April 17, 2025



MARILENA DAVID (MARI)



Acting Director

Deputy Director, Training Director, Project Reentry Manager

18 years at SADO

16 years as an attorney

10 years in leadership

ROAD MAP

- Financial impact of *Czarnecki and Taylor*
- FY 26 budget needs

Juvenile Lifer Unit & Project Reentry

17 and under

S COTUS : *Miller/Montgomery*

**2016 to
present**

363 in Michigan

193 represented by SADO

Only issue being reviewed is the sentence. Not the conviction.

Two potential outcomes:

1. Life without parole (LWOP) —or—
2. Term of years (TOY) (25 - 40 to 60)

17 and under 2016 process

If seeking LWOP again, 180 days to file motions (MCL 769.25a)

Filed motions in about 67% of cases

Defense must answer motions within 14 days.

There is no statutory timeline for the resentencings and hearings to take place after the motions and answers are filed.

17 and under

FY 2016-2023 funding and staff

11 staff in SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit

\$5,985,800 total over 7 years

17 and under

2016 to Present - Outcomes

193 represented by SADO

43 contested *Miller* hearings (pros's seeking LWOP)

9 resulted in LWOP

6 of those reversed on appeal

851 average hrs per case (\$62k per case)

18-year-olds

Parks/Poole

**2024 to
present**

275 in Michigan

168 represented by SADO

18-year-olds

FY 24 funding and staff

Added 7.5 staff members to SADO's

Juvenile Lifer Unit

\$5,429,600 total

18-year-olds

Parks/Poole

Same 2016 process for filing and answering motions

Timeline currently running

This is bulk of current work of SADO's 18.5 JLU staff

19- and 20-year-olds
Czarnecki/Taylor


2025

582 in Michigan

Estimated ~300 to be
represented by SADO

Project Reentry





Housing Transportation Employment Benefits Vital documents Education Counseling Medical

Reentry Book



2023



SADO's Project Reentry Presents It's Tax Time

Tax season is quickly approaching! At Project Reentry's March workshop, our featured speaker, MAACS Accountant Oliver Edmond, will explain what you need to know about income taxes and answer any questions you may have as you prepare this year's filings.

Monday, March 31, 2025
6:00 - 7:30 pm (doors lock at 6:00)
At SADO Detroit
3031 W. Grand Blvd. Ste 450
Detroit, MI 48202



Snacks will be provided. All are welcome.

RSVP here: www.sado.org/go/taxes

Financial Implications & Budgetary Needs

Juvenile Lifer Unit

Since 2016, ~ 2,473 years in reduced prison terms:

The return on investment in SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit
to date is 9.5:1 (946%) or
\$94,135,920.83 in corrections savings.

FY 26 - BUDGET PRIORITIES

Provide mandated representation to 19 -
and 20-year-olds facing resentencing

\$2,341,400 million – 14.5 positions

Implement multi -year plan to
represent ~ 300 people in
need of counsel for
resentencing. Year one adds
14.5 employees to SADO's JLU.
SADO to work with PAAM on
joint budget requests.



FY 26 - BUDGET PRIORITIES

Implementation of SADO Workload Standards

\$2.3 million - 12 FTEs

FY 26 is year two of a three - year phased plan to reduce appellate public defender caseloads in SADO's Direct Appeals Unit to meet NCSC workload standards, while relieving pressure on the roster.

Michigan State Appellate Defender Office Workload Assessment

Final Report

February 2024

Cynthia G. Lee, J.D., M.P.P.
Erika J. Bailey Stevens, M.A.
Breanna Bell, M.C.J.

Research and Design Group
National Center for State Courts



FY 26 - BUDGET PRIORITIES

Implement funding for interns
interested in public defense

\$327,600

While most system actors
(such as prosecutors, courts,
legislators, and trial public
defender) pay interns, SADO is
an outlier in its failure to do so.
This funding would support
students interested in public
service.



FY 26 - BUDGET PRIORITIES

Implementation of Collectively
Bargained Salary Adjustments

\$591,000

Implementation of contract to
increase pay to SADO staff in
parity with AG's Office.



Contact

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Follow our progress:

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