

PUBLIC SAFETY & LEGAL ADMINISTRATION PRESENTATION

Office of the Public Defender

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Director/Chief Public Defender



Office of the Public Defender DUI Division

Driving Under the Influence (DUI)

It is a crime in the State of Georgia to operate a vehicle while impaired by alcohol, drugs, or medication



Office of the Public Defender

DUI Division

DUI CASES ARE COMPLEX IN NATURE

- 5 separate subsections in the state statute that constitute the offense of DUI
- Require Expert Legal Knowledge of statutes that may precipitate a traffic stop and issues of: Search & Seizure, Due Process, Illegal Interrogation, Right to Counsel
- Scientific Knowledge of Biology, Chemistry, Physiology, Toxicology
- Technical Knowledge of Breath Testing Equipment, Hospital Testing Equipment, Blood Testing Equipment, Forensic Laboratory Equipment
- Multiple license suspension consequences



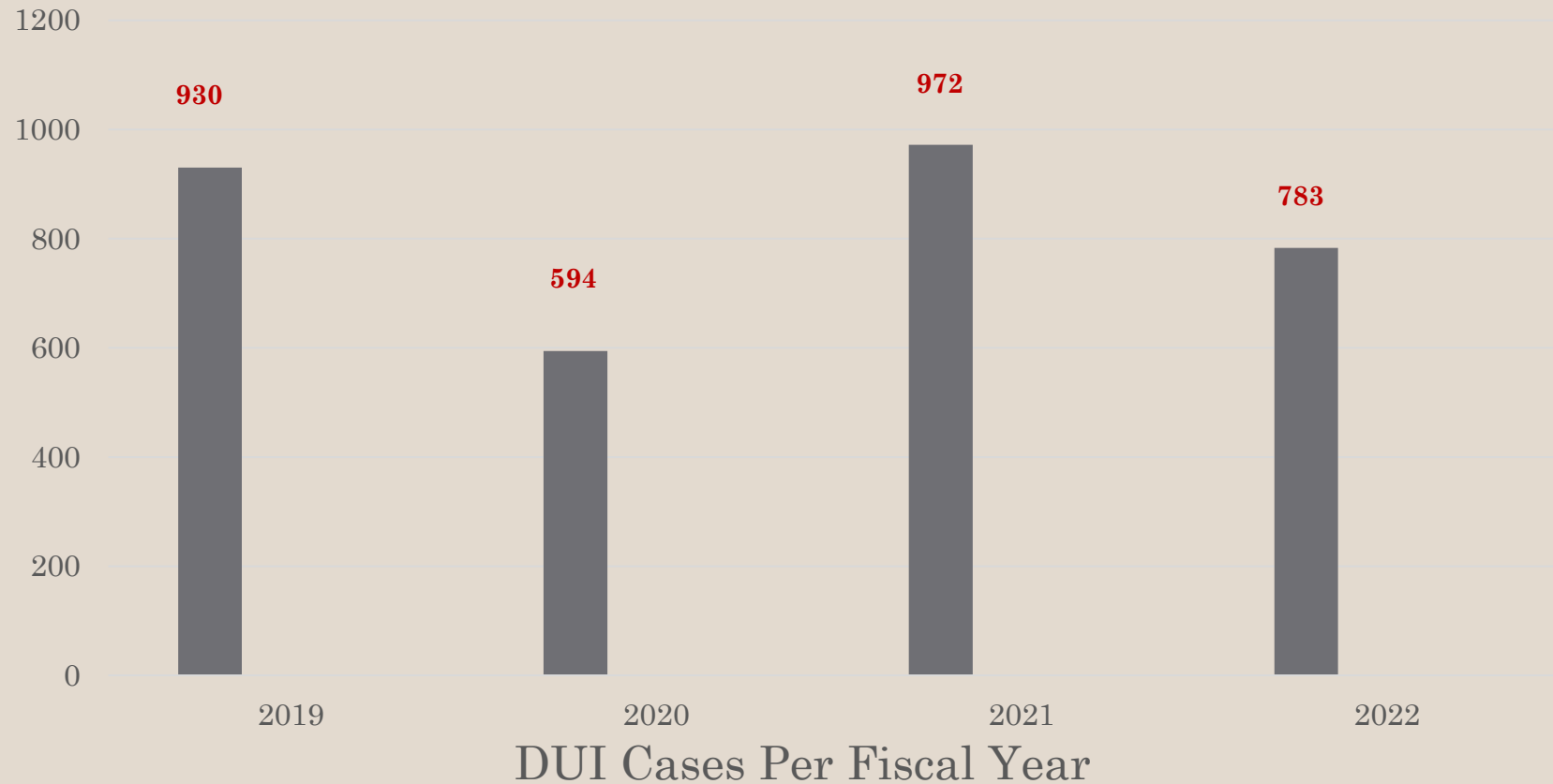
Office of the Public Defender DUI Division

The Active Caseload of the Public Defender
currently is 900+

(COA Public Defender has the largest DUI
practice in the State of Georgia)



Office of the Public Defender DUI Division



Office of the Public Defender DUI Division

Attorney Certifications and Training

- Standardized Field Sobriety Test Training Course (24 hours)
- Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement Training Course (16 hours)
- Drug Recognition Expert Training Course (21 hours)
- Standardized Field Sobriety Test Instructor Course (24 hours)*
- Various symposiums, conferences, and seminars throughout the year

*Public Defender Senior Attorney is an Instructor for this course



Counseling and Treatment Referrals

The Process

- Upon Initial Intake ALL Clients Receive a Psychosocial Assessment
- Attorney Identifies Need for Treatment and/or Counseling
- Advocate Determines Resource Needs
- Social Worker Prepares Independent Assessment for Community Partner Referral



Counseling and Treatment Referrals

Social Services Referrals Utilizing the Holistic Defense Model:

Substance Dependency Treatment

Alcohol Treatment

Mental Health Treatment

Employment

Community Service

Housing

Supportive Counseling



Proactive Community Engagement

Holistic Employment Program (HEP)
SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR)
Lawyers Initiative for Transforming Society (L.I.F.T.S)
Driver's License Restoration Program (DLRP)
Know Your Rights
Padillia (Immigration) Training
Weekly Podcast
Legal Clinics at 6 Locations



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Client Success Story

- Client had 4 prior DUI convictions in 3 different states
- Received 5th DUI arrest and was appointed to the Public Defender for representation
- At the time of arrest Client was experiencing homelessness
- After initial intake Client was referred to Public Defender social services staff
- Social Worker facilitated Client's enrollment in recovery and treatment
- Today Client is gainfully employed, has an apartment, is reunified with family, and has been sober for over a year



Questions?

