



# MONTANA STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

44 West Park Street, Butte, MT 59701  
T: 406.496.6080 F: 406.496.6098  
publicdefender.mt.gov

December 3, 2018

Governor Steve Bullock  
P.O. Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801

The Montana Supreme Court  
P.O. Box 203001  
Helena, MT 59620-3001

The Montana Legislature  
c/o Molly Petersen, Publications/Communications Officer  
Legislative Services Division  
P.O. Box 201706  
Helena, MT 59620-1706

Dear Governor Bullock, Supreme Court Justices, and Legislators:

RE: Office of the State Public Defender Report  
to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature

Pursuant to 47-1-125, MCA, the Office of the State Public Defender must provide a biennial report to the Governor, Supreme Court and Legislature. Each interim, the director also specifically reports to the Law and Justice Interim Committee.

## **Description of Report**

1. All policies and procedures in effect for the operation and administration of the statewide public defender system and all practice standards established or being considered by the agency.
2. The number of deputy public defenders and the region supervised by each; and the number of attorney and non-attorney staff employed or contracted within the system, identified by region and office.
3. The number of new cases in which counsel was assigned to represent a party, identified by region, court and case type; and the total number of persons represented by the office, identified by division, region, court and case type.
4. The annual caseload and workload of each public defender, identified by region, court and case type.
5. The training programs conducted by the office and the number of attorney and non-attorney staff who attended each program; and the continuing education courses on criminal defense or criminal procedure attended by each public defender employed or contracted within the system.
6. Detailed expenditure data by court and case type.

*We provide effective professional legal services with equal access to quality  
client-centered representation.*

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Supreme Court Justices  
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This report is available at <http://publicdefender.mt.gov/Resources/Reports>.

Please feel free to contact me at 496-6084 or [RSchaffer@mt.gov](mailto:RSchaffer@mt.gov) if you have any questions regarding the information in this report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rhonda Schaffer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "R".

Rhonda Schaffer  
Director

cc: Carleen Green, Central Services Division Administrator