



## Spotlight on Public Structures

### Office of the Defender General

For at least 135 years Vermont has recognized that equality is crucial to criminal justice and provided legal counsel to the indigent. In 1972 a statewide system of public defense was created: the Office of the Defender General

There are two criteria for services: need; and seriousness of the charge. Need is based on federal poverty guidelines; copayments may apply. Defendants must be charged with felonies, misdemeanors subject to imprisonment or fine of \$1,000 or more. Acts by juveniles that would be considered serious crimes if committed by adults, also qualify.

The Defender General has 50 attorneys — 33 staff and 17 contract — in 12 regional offices. If there is a conflict, legal or ethical, the case is assigned to an attorney under contract or an outside lawyer.

In 2007, the Defender General:

- defended 2,007 juveniles and 12,309 adults
- contracted with assigned counsel to represent approximately 5,700 clients
- accrued \$636,915 to the Public Defender Special Fund in copayments
- managed approximately 100 contract attorneys

Employees: 66 positions (33 public defenders, 15 secretaries, 11 investigators, 6 administrators, 1 paralegal)

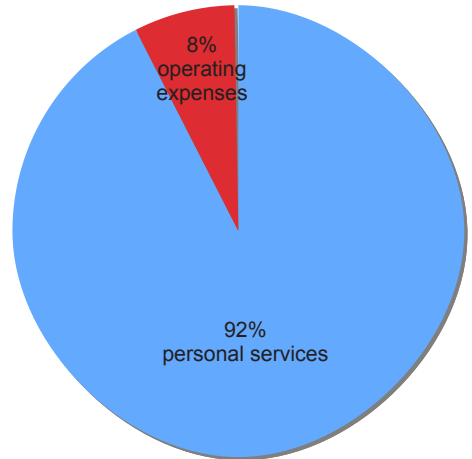
Fiscal Year 2007 Expenditures: \$9,790,188 (92 percent personal services, 8 percent operating expenses\*)

Fiscal Year 2007 Revenues: \$9,790,188 (92 percent General Fund, 6 percent Special Funds, 2 percent other\*)

\* Combined budgets, Public Defense and Assigned Counsel sections.

Sources: Office of the Defender General, Act 27 of The Vermont General Assembly 1872

FY 2007 Expenditures



FY 2007 Revenues

