

DISTRICT ATTORNEY GOALS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023-24

- Professional Recruitment: to fill all District Attorney's Office positions: The office is currently experiencing a shortage of professionals (deputy prosecutors, investigators, and paralegals). While the office has 19 allocated prosecutor positions (which includes the District Attorney and Assistant District Attorney), only eleven of those positions are currently filled, as of the end of May 2023 and both paralegal positions remain unfilled. This shortage of professionals seeking prosecutorial employment is being experienced statewide. This is due, in part, to the supply and demand equation continuing to be adversely impacted by the pandemic and its lingering aftermath. It is also due, in part, to the fact that Mendocino County's salary for these positions is below average when compared to other office on the North Coast, and across the state offices that are competing with one another to recruit and hire from the same shallower pool of applicants. This problem must be addressed and fixed at the Board level.
- Backlog: to recover from the backlog of criminal cases and jury trials brought on by the pandemic. This is at least a five-year plan of action and goal.
- Law Enforcement Assistance: to continue to provide timely and accurate legal advice to local law enforcement agencies. To protect law enforcement officers investigating dangerous street drugs (i.e., fentanyl), the DA has used Asset Forfeiture funds to purchase TruNarc Handheld Narcotics Analyzers for the Ukiah Police Department, the California Highway Patrol, and the Fort Bragg Police Department to share with all coastal law enforcement agencies.
- Data Management System: to complete the transition from the previous case management system involving ongoing data cleanup, and creation of essential analytical reports.
- Victim Rights and Assistance: to continue to fund and promote assistance to victims of crime through the DA's Victim/Witness program and office (707-463-4218).

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- Professional Standards/Education: to continue to promote, teach, and require high professional standards, as required by the California State Bar, ante California Business and Professions Code, and the District Attorney.