



VIRGINIA DEFENDERS

INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION

Virginia Indigent Defense Commission

Richmond, Virginia

MISSION

*Dedicated to protecting and defending
the rights and dignity of our clients
through zealous, compassionate,
high-quality legal advocacy*

The Virginia Indigent Defense Commission (VIDC) is the agency of the Commonwealth tasked with ensuring that the Commonwealth meets its constitutional obligation as mandated by the United State Supreme Court in *Gideon v. Wainwright*.

WHO WE ARE

566 Employees

29 Office Managers

78 Secretaries

34 Mitigation Specialist

51 Investigators

330.5 Attorneys (includes Capital Defenders)

20 Paralegals

ATTORNEY BREAKDOWN

Chief Public Defender (25)

Deputy Public Defender (28)

Senior Assistant Supervising Public
Defenders (42)

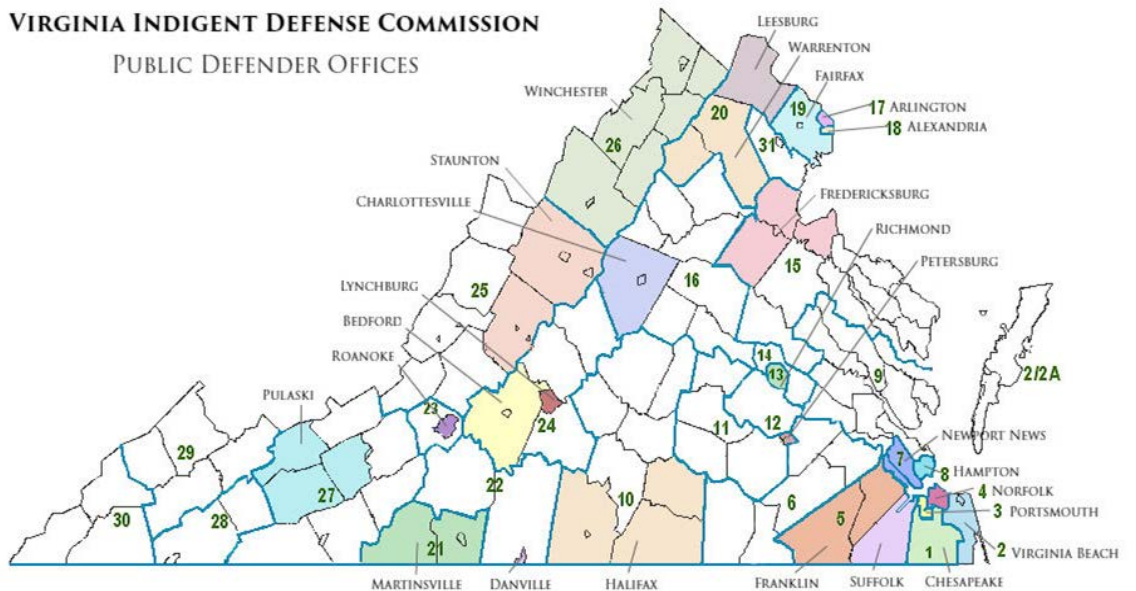
Senior Trial Attorneys (25)

Assistant Public Defender II (75)

Assistant Public Defender I (117)

WHERE ARE WE?

VIRGINIA INDIGENT DEFENSE COMMISSION PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICES



Jurisdictions Covered (53)

Alexandria

Arlington / Falls Church

Bedford (City and County)

Charlottesville / Albemarle

Chesapeake

Danville

Fairfax

Franklin(city) / Isle of Wight / Southampton

Fredericksburg / King George / Stafford /
Spotsylvania

Fauquier / Loudoun / Rappahannock

Halifax / Lunenburg / Mecklenburg

Hampton

Lynchburg

Martinsville / Henry / Patrick

Norfolk

Jurisdictions Covered (53) - continued

Newport News

Portsmouth

Petersburg

Pulaski / Radford / Bland / Wythe

Richmond City

Roanoke City

Staunton / Buena Vista / Lexington /
Waynesboro / Augusta / Rockbridge

Suffolk

Virginia Beach

Winchester / Clark / Page / Frederick /
Shenandoah / Warren

Approximately **90,000** per year

Fiscal Year 2019

91,018 Cases

165,638 Charges

SO MUCH MORE

We work to prevent Recidivism

Example of Public Defender Work outside of Court

Staff Drug Courts and all specialty dockets

PD staff serve on:

*Reentry task force/Council/Committees, Mental Health Diversion Committee, Correctional Services Advisory Board, Addiction Response Initiatives, Mental Health and Wellness Coalition, Local Inmate Workforce Program, Domestic Violence Prevention, Frequent User System Engagement

**See Reentry Report*

REQUEST

59 Attorney Positions:

27	APD I	\$53,054 (CA lowest salary ~56,000)	\$2,313,504.72
32	APD II	\$60,818	\$2,954,043.07
Total			\$5,267,547.79

Drivers of Workload

Top 5

1. Voluminous, often electronic or forensic, evidence including BWC
2. The number and needs of seriously mentally ill clients
3. Travel due to remote detention centers and wide coverage areas
4. Increases in Commonwealth Attorney staffing
5. Turnover

Criminal Law Now vs. 10 years ago

Text message / Email

Recorded Jail calls

Social media

Surveillance EVERYWHERE

BWC/vehicle cameras

Computer Forensic

Scientific Evidence

BWC Impact

September 2018

Average 9.8 hours per week

(Lowest 7 hours | Highest 15 hours)

2019 VCJC survey (162 out of 330 responded)

- 52.11% 1-5 hours
- 33.10% 6-10 hours
- 14.79% more than 10

Making it harder

- **93%** Difficulty in finding time to watch
- **73.13%** Inability to do other case work due to BWC
- Late Discovery
- Requirement to view in CA Office

Seriously Mentally Ill

Increase in the number and needs

These cases often require more:

- Hearings
- Jail visit
- Client servicing

Travel Time

- **Local Jail closing** resulting in added travel to regional detention center
- **Overcrowding** results in clients moved and being “housed out” to other jails and detention centers.
- **No public transportation in rural areas** leads to office hours held in multiple locations

Commonwealth Attorney Staffing

- 10 of 25 Public Defender offices serve multiple jurisdictions vs. CA only serve one
- Many Public Defenders face a 2:1 or 3:1 ratio
- Commonwealth Attorneys are not required to prosecute misdemeanors (although many do)
- Public Defender defend all cases

Turnover = Workload

Workload=Turnover

- Increased workloads
- Low pay
- No way to get a raise
- No room for advancement
- Higher pay in the CA Office

Turnover Rate

(By Office attorneys only)

2018

Range from 5% - 31%

2019

Range from 5% - 45%

Prince William

24 Attorneys

+11 Support Staff

35 Total Positions

Total Included \$2,701,065