



STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN

FY 2013/2014

COUNTY VISION

Pinal County Government provides progressive and proactive leadership in the areas of economic development, state-of-the-art technologies, growth management, and public services to promote healthy and safe communities.

COUNTY MISSION

Pinal County Government protects and enhances its citizens' quality of life by providing public services in an ethical, efficient, and responsible manner delivered by a motivated, skilled, and courteous workforce.

DEPARTMENT MISSION

The mission of the Pinal County Public Defender's Office is to protect and defend the rights of our indigent clients by providing vigorous and effective representation, thereby safeguarding the fundamental legal rights of all members of our community.

SUMMARY OF MAJOR SERVICES PROVIDED:

The Office of the Pinal County Public Defender is responsible for representation of persons determined by the courts to be indigent and who are either charged with a crime, are juveniles charged with an act of delinquency or are persons being petitioned for court ordered mental health treatment. This broad range of representation includes practice with Rules of Juvenile Court, Criminal Procedure, Civil Procedure and the Arizona Rules of Evidence.

ISSUE STATEMENTS

1. Increased Demand for Services

The increased workload from representation of more clients may result in:

Decrease in quality of representation.

Higher presentence incarceration costs as cases take longer to resolve.

2. Capital Attorney Services

The lack of capital qualified (death penalty) attorney in-house at this office will, if not addressed, result in:

Continued inability of our office to handle cases the State advises may be noticed for the death penalty.

Dramatic increases in cost of indigent defense as private contract attorneys, investigators, and mitigation specialists are paid hourly to handle these types of cases at a cost higher than in-house salary.

2-5 YEAR STRATEGIC GOALS:

1. Fully implement hiring of additional attorneys and staff as approved beginning with fiscal year 2013-2014 to increase the quality of representation and reduce the time needed to resolve cases.
2. Explore the feasibility of re-creating a capital attorney position to handle death penalty cases within the office.

CROSS CUTTING ISSUES

Reduction of presentence incarceration costs and length of time cases take to resolve.

Cross Cutting With: Judiciary, County Attorney, Clerk of the Superior Court, Pinal County Sheriff Detention, Adult Probation

The Office of the Pinal County Public Defender needs the Judiciary to release more non-violent offenders pending trial; the County Attorney to provide more timely plea offers, and more timely filings of post initial appearance out of custody cases, and more efficient means of plea bargaining cases in Early Disposition Court; the Clerk of the Superior Court and Pinal County Sheriff Department Detention to coordinate an increase in in-custody clients attending their scheduled court appearance; the Sheriff Department Detention to assist in resolving on-going access issues for attorneys to their clients with the present video visitation system; and for the Adult Probation Department to reduce the time needed for a change of plea to sentencing for in-custody clients.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE MEASURES:

The percentage of case file reviews which reflect appropriate client contact, legal analysis and documentation.