2021

ANNUAL REPORT

NAPD
FUND FOR JUSTICE

INTRODUCTION

The NAPD Fund for Justice Inc. began July 9, 2018. It was started by public defense leaders to enhance the right to counsel and public defense in the United States. To achieve this goal, the Fund provides scholarship assistance for defenders, investigators, social workers and non-attorney professionals working in public defense agencies, as well as individuals doing public defense conflict work, to attend top-notch national training programs. The Fund also provides a limited number of grants to public defense agencies to provide financial assistance for local creative advocacy projects.

PROGRESS MADE

The Fund enhances the right to counsel and public defense in the United States so clients receive quality representation. Over the past two years, the Fund has provided the following financial assistance.

In 2021 the Fund assisted 57 defenders and defenders staff to attend public defense training with tuition scholarships in the amount of $14,595.

2021 Financial Report

Donations for the Year 2021

In 2021 the fund received $300,487 in donations from over 53 individuals. In addition to individual donations, the Fund received donations from corporate giving programs, local training event partnerships, online t-shirt sales, and Facebook fundraisers.

Expenses for the year 2021

In 2021, the Fund expenditures totaled $10,491.66 to pay operating costs. Operating costs included:

- State Charitable Organization Registrations
- Web Hosting
- Web Electronic Filing Fees
- Local Training Event Partnerships
- Executive Director Stipend
- Accountant Expenses
- Postage Expenses

2021 Scholarships

Below is a list of the individuals who received a scholarship in 2021. With these funds, public defense professionals were able to further their education.

Sustaining Well-Being in Public Defense Online Course		
	Tom Gorgone	Forensic Security & Investigations, Inc.
	Prya Murad	Office of the Public Defender - 15th Judicial District
	Maeve Edwards	Committee for Public Counsel Services
	Leigh Ann Carroll	Midwest Innocence Project
Working With Clients Who Challenge Us		
	Jordan Gunnoe	West Virginia Public Defender Services
	Lora G. Walker	Public Defender Services, Habeas Corpus Division
	Raine Bryant	CLS Mitigation & Consulting. Services
	Rosa Amaya	Office of the Colorado State Public Defender
	Lindsay Bendell	Community Justice Services
	Becki Leitman	BL Investigations, LLC
	Nat Lombardo	Office of Capital & Forensic Writs
	Cary Gray	Kentucky Dept. of Public Advocacy
	Karissa Blackburn	West Virginia Public Defender Services
	Robert Evans	West Virginia Public Defender Services
Leading During Troubled Times		
	Lina Garcia	Maricopa County Public Defender
	Jennifer Arms	Tennessee District Public Defenders Coonference
	Nikelle Rosier	King County Department of Public Defense
	Fatima Avellan	San Francisco Public Defender Office
	Terri Mayes	
	Kasandra Washington	
	Theresa Chernosky	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Loren R. Villa	
	Durriyyah Hollimon	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	John Donnelly	Georgia Public Defender Council
	Tiffany Noelle Holley	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Elizabeth Gittings	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Rasheeda Lawrence	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Lucy Portera	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Representing Trans & Non-binary Clients		
	Adrienne Larimer	Office of the Ohio Public Defender
	Delphine Lourtau	Cornell Center on the Death Penalty Worldwide
	Thomas Coffey	Legal Aid Society of New York
	Maris Kramer Brosnan	Boston University
Exploiting Forensic Evidence's Tenuous Link to Science		
	Rachel Bennett	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Skye Frison	Department of Assigned Council
	Connor Barusch	Committee for Public Counsel Services
	David Rangaviz	Committee for Public Counsel Services
Resilient Leadership		
	Julie Lesser	Dallas County Public Defender Office
	Sam Natale	N/A
	Jessica Zimbelman	State Appellate Defender Office
	Katherine Marcuz	State Appellate Defender Office
	Sara Zeurcher	Kentucky Dept of Public Advocacy
	Theresa Chernosky	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Matthew D Busby	Mississippi Public Defenders Association
	Beau Rudder	Mississippi Public Defenders Association
	Gail Wright Lowery	Hinds County Public Defender's Office
	Trisha Ward	13th Judicial District Public Defender
	Michelle M AndrePont	Caddo Parish Office of the Public Defender
	Amrutha Jindal	Restoring Justice
	Jessica Anderson	Texas RioGrande Legal Aid Public Defenders
Warrior Motion Practice (September)		
	Danielle Moore	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
Sustaining Well-Being (September)		
	Courtney DiVincenzo	Marion County PD Agency
	Sara Jacobson	--
	Karyn Meriwether	Maryland Office of the Public Defender
	Katherine Drury	Wisconsin (staff)
Resilient Leadership (October/November)	**(from Ernie Lewis fund)**	
	Thomas Qualls	Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services
	Althea Mease	Virginia Indigent Defense Commission (VIDC)
	Rhonda O'Neal	Maricopa County Office of the Legal Defender

2021 Creative Advocacy Grants

The NAPD Fund for Justice Creative Advocacy Grant Initiative began in April 2019 to provide support to public defense initiatives that help clients. Grants are made in honor of the Fund's Hall of Fame members, Jeff Adachi and Norman Lefstein. Each of these public defense leaders sets a national standard for high-quality public defense.

The Board was able to award financial assistance to Creative Advocacy Initiative:

The Cook County Public Defender's Office in Illinois was awarded $2,000 for its "One Call" education campaign to raise the public's awareness of the legal services available through the Cook County Public Defender's Police Station Representation Unit (PSRU), which provides free legal representation to anyone held in police custody in Cook County, Illinois.

2021 Donor Honor Roll

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc Donor Roll is published to express our public appreciation to those who provided support to the Fund in 2021.

Rosa Parks Courageous Leader

$250,000 or more

Anonymous Donor

Gideon's Trumpeter

$5000 or more

Thurgood Marshall Advocate

$1000 - $4999

Catherine Clarke
Ed Monahan
Suzanne Sherr
Melody Brannon
Phyllis Subin
Stephen Hanlon

Freedom Fighter

$100 - $499

Amy Campanelli
Amy Karozos
Anna Kraun
Anthony Benedetti
Dean Beer
Jean Faria Loupe
Kari Reardon
Katherine Bajuk
Julie Mudd
Lorinda Youngcourt
Marci Johnson
Michael Spencer
Michael Stout
Nadine Wettstein
Paige Nolta
Ronald Langford
Ryando Bakhtiar
Willy Maderia

Sixth Amendment Litigator

$25 - $99

Christiane Cannon
Deborah Williams
Effie Seibold
Valencia Whitehead
Frank Draper
Helen Dovell
High Dangler
Stephen Cru
Jessica Zimbelman
Laura Koenig
Lucy Roth
Wesley Shackelford
Marcia Dukes
Miriam Ruttenberg
Scott Johnson
Stephanne Thornton

2021 Various Donations

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc received donations from other sources as well in 2021.

Bonfire T-Shirt Sales

$7,900.71

Ernie Lewis Fundraiser via Facebook

$1,188.00

Randolph Stone
James Noll
Heather Drake
Ron Crawford
Billy Dean
Kay Keller Scott
Col Owens
Matt Butler
Paul DeWolfe
Linda Carpenter
Jeff Sherr
Ernie Lewis

Amazon Program

$233.50

Other Facebook Fundraisers

$1,175.00

Outstanding Contributed Services

We exist because of the generous assistance of many people, especially Isaac Merkle, Eddie Williams, Morris Miller, our Board of Directors and Officers, and the generosity of those who have made a financial donation.

Issac Merkle designed and built the NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc. website and mail services and provides ongoing maintenance and technical support.

Issac Merkle, IT Guru Extraordinaire, Knoxville Public Defender's Office

Holland & Knight's Eddie Williams and Morris Miller provided substantial pro bono legal assistance for the corporate formation of the NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc., preparation, and submission of the application for tax-exempt status recognition with the IRS, along with ongoing legal advice to the Board and Officers.

Morris Miller, Partner Holland & Knight LLP

Eddie Williams, Partner Holland & Knight LLP

The Fund's Governance

Highly experienced professionals and client-centered public defense leaders.

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc. Board of Directors provides passionate, visionary leadership. Each Director has devoted their career to advancing the right to counsel for those accused of a crime.

Lawyer Hanlon, former General Counsel, National Association for Public Defense, St. Louis, MO; former Partner at Holland & Knight; Past Chairman, the Florida Bar, Public Interest Law Section; Past President, Florida Legal Services; Past Chair of the Executive Counsel, American Bar Association, Individual Rights and Responsibilities Section; Past Chair, American Bar Association, Death Penalty Moratorium Implementation Project; Chair, Indigent Defense Advisory Group, Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense, American Bar Association.

Stephen F. Hanlon
President

The Fund's Governance

Cait Clarke
Board Member

Chief of the Defender Services Office in the Administrative Office of the US Courts, Washington, DC; Former staff at the National Legal Aid & Defender Association and Director of Federal Programs at Equal Justice Works. Cait was a law professor at Loyola Law School, New Orleans, before earning her Doctorate of Law (SJD Degree) at Harvard Law School. Cait is also the Founding Director of the National Defender Leadership Institute (NDLI).

Fred Friedman
Board Member

Public Defender since 1973. Chief Public Defender Minnesota Sixth District 1986 - 2014. Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth 1975 - present. Chair, NAPD Strike Force Committee.

Ernie Lewis
Board Member

Former Executive Director, National Association for Public Defense; former Public Advocate, Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, Frankfort, KY; KY Association for Criminal Defense Lawyers President and Lobbyist; Chair of NLADA American Counsel of Chief Defenders.

The Fund's Governance

Jim Bethke
Board Member

Director / Managed Assigned Counsel Office / Bexar County, Texas.
In November 2021, Bethke was appointed as the Director of the newly created Managed Assigned Counsel Office, Bexar County, Texas. The office provides needed support to appointed attorneys and applies evidence-based strategies that are client-centered to enhance outcomes. He serves on the Board for the National Association of Public Defense Fund for Justice and Chairs the Board for the Office of Capital and Forensic Writs.
He is the former Director of the Texas Indigent Defense Commission, Harris County Justice Administration, Harris County Pretrial Services, and the Lubbock Private Defender Office. He also served as an Adjunct Professor at Texas Tech University School of Law.
Formerly a member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants and was part of a team of legal experts from France, Spain, and the United States charged with conducting an independent review and assessment of the International Criminal Court's legal aid system at the Hague.
He is a past chair of the Juvenile Law Exam Commission for the Texas Board of Legal Specialization and is a Texas Bar Foundation Life Fellow. He is a U.S. Army veteran from the 101st Airborne Division, is a graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler and the Texas Tech University School of Law.

The Fund's Governance

Ed Monahan
Board Member

Former Public Advocate, Kentucky Department of Public Advocacy, Frankfort, KY; KY Public Defender for 34 years; Director of Catholic Conference of KY for 4 years; member of a KY Legal Services Board for 9 years and Board's Fundraising Chair; Chair of NLADA American Council of Chief Defenders for 2 years.

Lori James-Townes is the Executive Director of the National Association of Public Defense. Lori has over 25 years of clinical practice, leadership, and management experience. Lori's prior experience includes serving as the Director of Social Work, Leadership, and Program Development at the Maryland Office of Public Defender (which has more than 800 employees). For the past 2 years, she has led the planning of NAPD'S Women's Conference each year attracting over 800 women who work in every area of public defense.

Lori James-Townes
Board Member

The Fund's Governance

Paul DeWolfe
Board Member

The Public Defender of Maryland, the fourth attorney to hold this position in the agency's history. In this capacity, he leads an office of 570 attorneys and 344 support staff. He first joined the Montgomery County Office in 1981 as an Assistant Public Defender before leaving the office for private practice in 1989. He returned to the office in a leadershp role in 2000 serving as District Public Defender for Montgomery County, Maryland and overseeing a staff of 34 lawyers. During his career, Mr. DeWolfe has tried criminal jury trials in cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder in both state and federal court. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers since 2005, Mr. DeWolfe formerly served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He is a former President of the Maryland Criminal Defense Attorneys Association and a former President of the Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland. Mr. DeWolfe is a former Chair of the National Association of Public Defenders and an ex officio member of the Criminal Law Section Counsel of the Maryland State Bar Association. Mr. DeWolfe is a 2008 recipient of the Joseph P. Curran Award for Distinguished Public Interest Lawyers from the Maryland State Bar Association. In 2019, Mr. DeWolfe was awarded the Robert C. Heeney Memorial Award for "exemplifying the highest professional standards and achievement during his distinguished career" from the Maryland State Bar Association.

The Fund's Governance

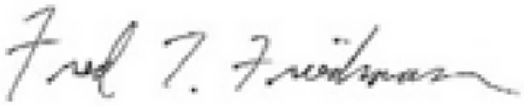
Rodney Ellis
Board Member

Ellis was born and raised in Houston's Sunnyside neighborhood. The proud son of a yardman and a maid, Ellis attended Texas Public Schools from grade school through law school. He holds a Bachelor's Degree from Texas Southern University, a Master's Degree from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, and a Law Degree from the University of Texas School of Law. Commissioner Ellis currently represents the diverse communities of Harris County Precinct One in Houston, Texas. He believes the role of the government is to guarantee that all people have the opportunity and ability to build a better future for themselves and is committed to delivering responsive public services to his constituents while advocating for policies that advance fair opportunity and equal justice for all people. He began his career as a public servant working as Chief of Staff for the late Congressman Mickey Leland and served 3 terms on the Houston City Counsel before joining the Texas Senate, where he served for more than 25 years before being elected to his current position in 2016. During his tenure in the Texas Senate, he successfully passed more than 630 pieces of legislation championing criminal justice reform, civil rights, education, health care, economic opportunity, fair elections and many other vital issues impacting underserved communities. His top Precinct One priorities include developing inclusive economic growth policies that lift up all communities, increase access to parks and greenspace in underserved neighborhoods, implementing a mobility plan that connects families to safe, affordable transportation options, and advancing criminal justice reforms that protect the rights of all people while making communities safer.

The Fund's Governance

Jim Bethke, Board Member; Director / Managed Assigned Counsel Office / Bexar County, Texas

Cait Clarke, Board Member
Washington, DC

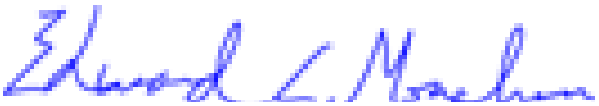


Fred T. Friedman, Board Member
Retired Chief Public Defender
Minnesota Sixth District and Adjunct Associate Professor, University of Minnesota, Duluth

Rodney Ellis, Board Member
Harris County Commissioner
Former Texas State Senator

Paul B. DeWolfe, Board Member
Maryland Chief Public Defender
Baltimore, MD

Stephen F. Hanlon, President,
LAWYER HANLON
Former General Counsel, National Association for Public Defense, St. Louis, MO



Edward C. Monahan, Treasurer,
Former KY Public Advocate, Frankfort KY

Ernie Lewis, Board Member;
Former NAPD Executive Director,
Former KY Public Advocate, Frankfort, KY

Lori James Townes, Board Member
Executive Director of the National Association of Public Defense

The NAPD Fund for Justice, Inc. is recognized by the IRS as a public charity exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make under IRC Section 170. The Fund is qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devises, transfers, or gifts under IRC Sections 2055, 2106 and 2522.