2022 was an incredible year of growth and accomplishment for the San Francisco Public Defender’s Office. We have expanded our advocacy efforts to effectuate systems change on behalf of our clients and communities, while still fighting every single day in court for their dignity and Constitutional rights. As we begin this new year, it’s important to realize that we couldn’t have achieved any successes without the trust of our clients and their families, without the dedication of our colleagues, and without the tireless energy and support of community partner organizations.

With that in mind, our office has created a new logo and motto — “Greater Than One.” This motto and design reminds us that all we achieve comes about only through collective action. As we fight on behalf of our individual clients in the courtroom and work to confront and dismantle a racist policing and carceral system, the road is often a difficult one with frequent bumps and turns. But our collective energy burns brightly, and the strength and the resilience of the individuals we represent inspires us.

“Greater Than One,” as you’ll see in this calendar, applies to so many aspects of our work, and reflects who we are:

Greater Than One Defender because we work collectively in advocacy teams comprised of investigators, paralegals, social workers, attorneys, and other staff to provide high-level representation to our clients.

Greater Than One Narrative because our groundbreaking filmmaking Adachi Project initiative — named for the late great Public Defender and filmmaker Jeff Adachi, whom we lost in 2019 — is devoted to telling the stories of our clients and communities. Art and stories are powerful, and we are harnessing that power with this project to reveal truth and demand justice.

Greater Than One MAGIC because for many years, our MAGIC programs have fostered partnerships with communities that continue to thrive and grow to promote healthy outcomes for youth and families throughout San Francisco.

Greater Than One’s Record because our Clean Slate team assists thousands of individuals in expunging their records, removing obstacles to basic needs such as housing, clearing new paths for success, and opening new avenues for educational and professional advancement.

Greater Than One’s Sentence because our innovative Freedom Project has been using new statewide laws to free incarcerated community members who were wrongly convicted, too harshly sentenced or have shown their rehabilitation.

Greater Than One’s Trauma because our Mental Health unit helps ensure that our clients with mental health needs are treated with dignity and compassion in both civil and criminal proceedings. With the post-pandemic surge in mental health crises, this work is more important than ever.

Greater Than One Coalition because our Confront and Advocate team has been building bridges and multiplying people power by forging coalitions with community organizations on issues such as ending racially-biased police traffic stops; the successful Be the Jury project, which has created juries that better reflect the diversity of San Francisco’s communities; and on efforts to halt regressive and harmful “War on Drugs” tactics.

There is so much more, and I hope you’ll check out how each month of this calendar highlights a unique way that, working together, we are greater than the sum of our parts. I look forward to the many advances we’ll achieve as an office and as a community that is Greater than One in 2023!

In Community,

Mano Raju
San Francisco Public Defender
The San Francisco Office of the Public Defender delivers zealous, compassionate, and client-centered legal representation to more than 20,000 indigent persons accused of crimes, facing deportation, and/or involved in conservatorship matters in San Francisco, while advocating for systemic changes to benefit the City’s most disenfranchised and disempowered.

**Budget**

In fiscal year 2021-2022, the budget for the Public Defender’s Office was $45,292,551 with 195 full-time employees. 92.10% of the Public Defender’s 2021-22 budget went to salaries and benefits. Services of other departments (4.91%), non-personnel services (2.70%), and materials and supplies (.29%) made up the remaining 7.90% of the budget.

**New Initiatives/Program Highlights**

1. **Be the Jury:** In 2021, we worked closely with community partners and San Francisco’s Treasure’s Office to launch the “Be the Jury” program (AB 1452) in March of 2022; aimed at eliminating financial hardships so low-income jurors can serve on juries. Studies have consistently shown that economically and racially diverse juries have wider-ranging and more accurate deliberation discussions and make better decisions, improving the legitimacy of the criminal legal system. To date, 360 participants have successfully enrolled.

2. **Open the Courts:** In 2021, the Public Defender and four taxpayer plaintiffs sued the San Francisco Superior Court, asserting that clients’ state and federal constitutional rights have been violated as many courtrooms’ doors remain closed post-pandemic. Advocating vigorously on behalf of almost 800 accused individuals — including about 200 who are in custody and enduring solitary-like conditions while incarcerated — whose trial deadlines have passed. We continue to fight to fully open the courts.

3. **Immigration Win:** In 2021/22, we assisted with the federal Zepeda Rivas et al v. Jennings case in the Northern District of California, winning a groundbreaking settlement that requires immigration authorities to preserve COVID-19 safety measures that allow for social distancing and vaccination mandates for staff and individuals who are detained in ICE custody, and limited the re-detention of immigrants who have been released during the pandemic. This also led to the liberation of hundreds of people from immigration detention.

4. **21st Century Leadership Structure:** In early 2022, we launched our office’s strategic plan, and announced a new 21st Century leadership structure for the office. The Public Defender grew its executive leadership team for parity with the City’s other public law offices; adding a Chief of Defend, Chief of Confront, Chief of Operations and Chief of Staff in order to implement its vision of shared and sustainable leadership. Additionally, new Department hires included 66% people of color; ending the fiscal year with a total staffing breakdown of 56.6% Female, 43.4% Male, with 20% Asian, 20% Hispanic, 12.7% Black/AA, and 39% White.
SF Public Defenders, community leaders, and individuals impacted by trial delays and indefinite pre-trial detention rallied and demonstrated against the San Francisco Superior Court’s shameful trial backlog. While other counties have fully opened their courtrooms to ensure that individuals have their constitutionally guaranteed day in court, San Francisco’s court system has violated the speedy trial rights of hundreds of people and exacerbated the humanitarian crisis in our jails. We’re keeping the pressure on in the courts, in the streets, in the news, and in the halls of power.
GREATER THAN ONE
Narrative
In 2021, we established The Adachi Project, with partners Even/Odd and Compound, in memory of late Public Defender and filmmaker Jeff Adachi, to bring forth powerful stories and unseen perspectives of the U.S. criminal legal system through the unique lens of public defenders and our clients. Here we are behind the scenes of our first film project, featuring Paul Redd on the day he was released from prison, reuniting with his family and returning home after being re-sentenced through the help of the SF Public Defender’s Office Freedom Project. The film, titled “Forty-Four Years Later,” was released as part of our inaugural body of work on WeAreDefender.com. It was an honor for The Adachi Project to capture part of Mr. Redd’s story before his passing in 2022.
GREATER THAN ONE
Defender
Everyone is a Defender. Attorneys, paralegals, investigators, social workers and interns collaborate to fiercely defend our clients. This team fought for 2.5 years for a mother who was trapped in jail pretrial amid an oppressive court backlog while her health and family suffered. When her case finally went to trial, and the defense had a chance to cross-examine the prosecution’s witnesses, the judge granted our motion to dismiss the case, finally sending our client home to her family.
The San Francisco Public Defender’s Confront team confronts state violence and advocates for community empowerment – which involves collaborating with community partners and other government agencies to pass local and state policies to increase equity and opportunities for our system-impacted clients. In March of 2022, we launched the “Be the Jury” pilot program, which compensates low-income jurors $100 per day, eliminating financial hardship and allowing the court to seat juries that better reflect the economic and racial diversity of our city. The program was launched in partnership with the SF Treasurer’s Office, SF Bar Association, SF Superior Court, and District Attorney’s Office. The program has increased the economic and racial diversity of juries to reflect San Francisco’s diversity, and we hope to extend the program and share its success to inspire other jurisdictions around the state.
GREATER THAN ONE’S RECORD
May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our Clean Slate team was honored to help DiJaida obtain dismissal of old convictions, which opens up new avenues for educational and professional advancement. DiJaida’s Certificate of Rehabilitation was also granted, which triggers an automatic application for a pardon from the governor. Whether expungements are symbolic or needed for survival, our Clean Slate team is proud to serve community members seeking a fresh start.
GREATER THAN ONE

Impact
We know that many of our clients end up in the criminal legal system because they are suffering from homelessness, mental illness, substance use disorder, or lack of employment opportunities. Our goal is to address their underlying needs, disrupt the cycle of criminalization and incarceration, and ultimately see them thrive. This is why we started the “End the Cycle” program, bringing in skilled social workers to be part of our Pretrial Release Unit to meet with recently-arrested clients and connect them to critical services and resources in the community.
Our MAGIC programs — Mobilization for Adolescent Growth in our Communities — serve thousands of youth with year-round activities and community-building events. In 2022, we announced leadership changes that align both programs, based in Bayview Hunters Point and the Fillmore Western Addition, under one director. This change was designed to further build on MAGIC as a community connector and convener for those empowering the advancement of education, health, and economic mobility for children, youth and their families. Here, we have the new MAGIC Executive Director Brittany Ford and Associate Director Moira Dumo Rios; both are carrying forward a legacy of prioritizing collaboration and advocacy to help San Francisco’s marginalized communities grow and thrive.
Our Youth Defender Unit (formerly the Juvenile Unit) is a national model of holistic representation with its team of attorneys, social workers, and youth advocates dedicated to addressing the legal and collateral needs of system-impacted youth and their families. We’ve been leading the effort to shut down the prison-like juvenile hall in San Francisco and we continue to stand up for the well-being and dignity of youth — including joining the Young Women’s Freedom Center to rally against policies that would allow youth to be tried as adults. Our youth deserve better!
GREATER THAN ONE

Border
Our Immigration Defense Unit represents people who are facing deportation due to a past criminal conviction. Many of our clients, like artist and activist Sal Prasad, are needlessly transferred from prison into ICE custody on what should be their first day of freedom after earning parole. Pictured here is Sal’s first day of freedom after over a year in immigration detention and almost 30 years in prison. We continue to advocate alongside statewide supporters and elected officials for Gov. Gavin Newsom to grant a pardon for Sal. If granted, he’ll no longer face deportation to a country he left at age 6, where he faces discrimination for being part of the LGBTQ community. Join our efforts at bit.ly/PardonSal.
GREATER THAN ONE’S Trauma
This is not just an ordinary lunch, but rather a celebration for a misdemeanor defense team and their client, who wanted some “freedom tacos” after he was acquitted at trial in under two hours. One’s mental health factors into so many of the cases that come into the criminal courts, and in this case, our client was seeking medical attention when he momentarily became physical with a doctor. Our defense team brought in an expert witness who testified that our client was likely unconscious at the time, and effectively conveyed to the jury that our client was a victim of his own mind. We look forward to a day when every mental health crisis is met with skilled de-escalation and compassion, rather than arrest and prosecution.
GREATER THAN ONE ALLEGATION
We know that police reports only capture a moment in time and often can be inaccurate or miss important parts of the bigger picture. That’s why our investigators are such crucial members of our defense teams. Our investigators are challenged daily, but they successfully forge relationships in the community to interview witnesses, find important evidence, develop leads and theories, serve subpoenas, and even testify in court.
The San Francisco Public Defender’s Freedom Project is dedicated to decarceration, successful transition to the freer world, and post-conviction systemic change. In three years, our team helped free 70 people from state prison and shortened many additional sentences. We are thrilled that so many community members are back home for the holidays. Daniel is one shining example, pictured here with his parents in San Francisco as he gets ready for his second Christmas home after serving 15 years of a life term received at age 17.
Main Office
555 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
Front Desk: 415-553-1671
Website: sfpublicdefender.org

Youth Defender Unit
375 Woodside Avenue, Room 118
San Francisco, CA 94127
Front Desk: 415-753-7601

MAGIC
Bayview Office
Phone: 415-642-8017
Email: community@bayviewmagic.org
Website: bayviewmagic.org
Instagram: @BayviewMAGIC

Fillmore Office
Phone: 415-567-0400
Email: info@momagic.org
Website: momagic.org
Instagram: @mo_magic415

Clean Slate Program
Phone: 415-553-9337
Email: cleanslate@sfgov.org
You can apply for Clean Slate online at sfpublicdefender.org/services/clean-slate
In person Tuesdays 9-11am by appointment only at 555 7th Street
schedule at calendly.com/sfcleanslate/schedule or scan QR Code
First weekday of the month at at Arriba Juntos, 1850 Mission Street,
San Francisco, CA 94103
Every 3rd Wednesday of the Month, 10am-1pm at YCD – Inner City Youth, 200 Broad Street, San Francisco, CA, 94112
Every 1st Thursday of the Month 10am-12pm at Latino Task Force,
701 Alabama Street, San Francisco, CA 94110
For other locations check Instagram: @sfcleanslate

Social Media
Facebook: San Francisco Public Defender’s Office
facebook.com/sfpublicdefender
Mano Raju facebook.com/mano.raju.77
Twitter: @sfdefender @ManoRajuPD
Instagram: @sfpublicdefender @ManoRajuPD

Production Credits
Design committee: Angela Chan, Hadi Razzaq, Jessie Seyfer, John Dunbar, Larry Roberts, Lyslynn Lacoste, Tyler Vu, Valerie Ibarra
Logo design: The Beacon Design Collective Inc.

This report was not printed at government expense.