



Balanced Justice: Defender Reform Plan of 2026

A strategic plan to stabilize Kentucky's public defender system, retain experienced advocates, and ensure a fair and balanced justice system for all

- 1. Professional Defender Compensation**
Salary Increases for Public Defenders to Stabilize Court Staffing and Services
- 2. Defender Recruitment and Retention Program**
Fund a Dedicated and Transparent Recruiting and Retention Program
- 3. Circuit Defenders**
Establish Twenty-One (21) Experienced Attorney Positions to Strengthen Unserved Circuits
- 4. Paralegal Services to Improve Efficiency and Stability**
Fund a Paralegal in each DPA Office
- 5. Ethical and Fiscally Responsible Contract System for Conflict Cases**
Fund Essential Contracts and Court Plans
- 6. Evolving Technological Resources**
Fund Necessary Technology and Supporting Personnel

The Balanced Justice Plan Reforms the Existing Defender Program to Create a Strong, Stable, and Sustainable Indigent Defense System to Serve All Kentuckians