



THE  
PUBLIC  
DEFENDER  
SERVICE  
*for the District of Columbia*



CHAMPIONS OF LIBERTY

## Community Defender Division

*Defending your liberty from the  
courtroom to the community.*

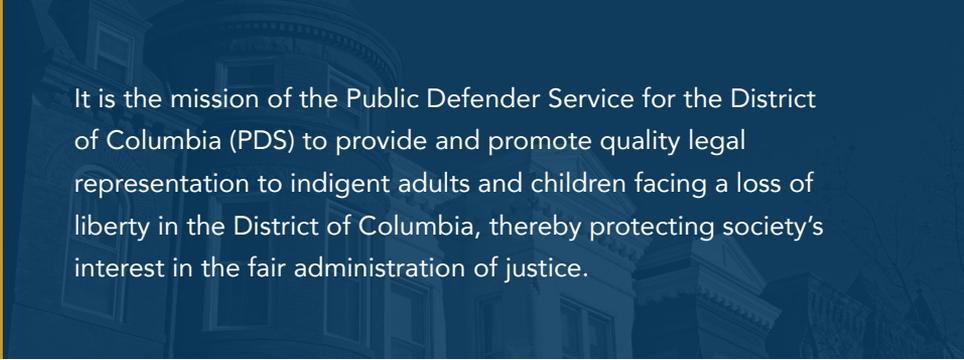


PUBLIC  
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*PDS History*  
and Background

# What is PDS?

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It is the mission of the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) to provide and promote quality legal representation to indigent adults and children facing a loss of liberty in the District of Columbia, thereby protecting society's interest in the fair administration of justice.

After operating as the Legal Aid Agency from 1960 to 1970, the Public Defender Service for the District of Columbia (PDS) was established in 1970 by a federal statute enacted to comply with a constitutional mandate to provide defense counsel for people who cannot afford an attorney. The majority of PDS's work focuses on representing individuals who have been charged with the most serious violations of the D.C. Code. In addition, PDS represents individuals who seek to appeal matters under the D.C. Code, to pursue civil legal matters arising as collateral consequences of criminal convictions, to defend parole revocation cases, to defend involuntary civil commitment proceedings, and to remove the legal barriers that inhibit successful reintegration and reentry into the community following involvement in the juvenile and criminal justice systems.



# Community Defender Division

## Mission & Goals

### What is CDD?

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The Community Defender Division (CDD) was established in 1999, to provide legal services for children and adults in the District who face the challenges of arrests, convictions, and incarceration. CDD assists persons for whom the legal barriers of system involvement prevent the successful reintegration into their homes, neighborhoods, and communities.

CDD understands that reentry begins at the moment an individual has contact with the system. An encounter as brief as an arrest can have numerous legal and practical implications that could alter the course of a person's life – time away from work could lead to the loss of employment and of the promise of a career; loss of wages could lead to the inability to meet financial obligations such as rent. Criminal convictions and prison sentences often mark the beginning of years of disenfranchisement and struggles – poor education, lack of vocational training relevant to the local market, and deterioration of family

dynamics and support systems. A juvenile or criminal record can have long-lasting and devastating implications that can result in confinement to a life of poverty. CDD's goal in fulfilling PDS's mission is to renew hope for a bright future and to promote the success of community members while bringing meaning to second chances.

## What is "Community-Oriented Defense"?

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Since 2003, PDS has been a member of the Community-Oriented Defender Network – a coalition of more than 100 member organizations whose shared vision is to advance the following goals<sup>1</sup>:

1. **Create a "client-centered practice."** We aspire to employ a diverse group of attorneys, investigators, social workers and other advocates who respect their clients' wishes and goals, and who work together to ensure that the dignity of every client is honored.
2. **Meet clients' needs.** We seek to promote the life success of every client by: identifying educational gaps, mental health issues, addiction, and other needs, and linking clients with resources, opportunities, and services to meet those needs.
3. **Partner with the community.** We seek to maintain a local presence in the communities we serve, and to form relationships with community members, community based organizations, and community institutions (e.g., courts, schools, government, health care providers, and employers) to improve case outcomes and life outcomes for clients and to strengthen families and communities.
4. **Fix systemic problems.** We aspire to change policies that harm clients, families, and communities (e.g., policing practices that produce racial and ethnic disparities in arrest rates).
5. **Educate the public.** We seek to describe the human impact of the criminal justice system to policymakers, journalists, and others so that the public can better appreciate the cost to individuals, communities, and the nation of "tough on crime" policies.

1. <http://www.nlada.org/community-oriented-defender-network>

6. **Collaborate.** We aim to create partnerships with likely and unlikely allies, including prosecutors, victims, faith-based organizations, and national and state based legal aid organizations to share ideas, promote change, and support mutual efforts.
7. **Address civil legal needs.** We seek to promote access to civil legal services to resolve clients' legal concerns in such areas as housing, immigration, family court, and public benefits, occasioned by involvement with the criminal justice system.
8. **Pursue a multidisciplinary approach.** We aspire to engage not only lawyers but also social workers, counselors, medical practitioners, investigators, and others to address the needs of clients, their families and communities.
9. **Seek necessary support.** We seek essential funding, professionally approved workload limits, and other resources and structures sufficient to enable the COD model to succeed.
10. **Participate in the COD network.** We are dedicated to sharing ideas, research, and models to help advance the COD movement locally and nationally in order to maximize its benefits for clients, families, and communities.

Using these tenets as a guide, CDD has established itself as a leader in the community defense movement. In an age of evolving perspectives on juvenile and criminal justice, it is more important than ever to consider the needs of the individuals and communities who are impacted the most.

CDD further understands that the juvenile and criminal justice systems are a continuum – and that it is important to enforce our clients' rights at arrest, at trial, at sentencing, during incarceration, during parole and supervised release, and after their cases are closed, so that the vestiges of system involvement do not plague our community members who are determined to succeed.

A man in a dark suit and light-colored shirt is walking from left to right in the foreground. In the background, there is a large, multi-story building with a sign that reads "DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS CENTRAL DETENTION FACILITY". The sign is in gold lettering on a light-colored wall. There are some green bushes in front of the building.

# Prisoner & Reentry Legal Services Program

## What is the Prisoner & Reentry Legal Services Program?

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The Prisoner & Reentry Legal Services Program (PRLS) serves D.C. prisoners at institutions operated by the D.C. Department of Corrections as well as across the nation by the Federal Bureau of Prisons. Our services include legal representation of prisoners in administrative hearings in D.C. Department of Corrections facilities and in parole release hearings in Federal Bureau of Prisons facilities. Our program also represents individuals in the community under the supervision of the U.S. Parole Commission seeking early termination of parole or supervised release. Additionally, PRLS represents individuals in motions to seal eligible criminal records in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. Likewise, the program provides representation to those who are seeking employment and housing but are adversely affected by their criminal records. PRLS represents and advocates for individuals in other matters where prior arrests, convictions, and/or incarceration serve as barriers to success in the community. PRLS is also an active participant in community events geared toward returning citizens. Lastly, PRLS participates in a variety of formal and informal committees with other criminal justice stakeholders to work on systemic change and policy, and to advocate for the rights of justice-involved persons.

# How can PRLS help me or my loved one?

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PRLS provides legal representation and advocacy to protect the rights of D.C. prisoners and individuals seeking to remove obstacles, including collateral consequences, caused by having a criminal record in the District of Columbia. If you have ever been involved in the D.C. criminal justice system by being arrested, being charged, having pre-trial release conditions, being convicted of a misdemeanor or felony, being on community supervision (probation, parole, supervised release), or being sentenced (community corrections, jail, prison), you may be eligible for our legal services. Areas of legal representation and advocacy include, but are not limited to:



## **PRISONER LEGAL SERVICES & ADVOCACY**

- D.C. Department of Corrections (DOC) administrative hearings
- Prisoner advocacy for individuals incarcerated at the D.C. Jail, at the Central Treatment Facility (CTF), and in the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) facilities
- Sentence computation, designation, and classification assistance for individuals incarcerated in the BOP



## **REENTRY LEGAL SERVICES & ADVOCACY**

- Parole release hearings
- Early termination of parole hearings
- Early termination of supervised release
- D.C. criminal record sealing
- Inaccurate D.C. criminal records (including stolen identity cases, background checks, and credit reports)
- Sex offender registration requirements
- Conditions of parole, supervised release, and probation
- D.C. child support modifications due to incarceration
- Employment and housing denials due to a D.C. criminal record
- Occupational license denials due to a D.C. criminal record
- Referrals for social services and community based support

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & POLICY WORK**

- Community education and outreach
- Legal clinics
- Committees addressing criminal justice reform



# Juvenile Services

## Program

### **What is the Juvenile Services Program?**

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The D.C. Council asked PDS to form the Juvenile Services Program (JSP) in 1978, in response to a government report describing systemic mistreatment of the District's securely detained youth. Since its inception, JSP has served as the legal ombudsman for youth in the District who are securely detained or committed to the Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services (DYRS). JSP has offices in detention facilities managed by DYRS; the Youth Services Center (YSC), for youth pending trial and sentencing, and the New Beginnings Youth Development Center, for youth who have been committed to DYRS. JSP also provides legal representation and advocacy for children committed to the custody of the District through the juvenile delinquency system and placed in the community.

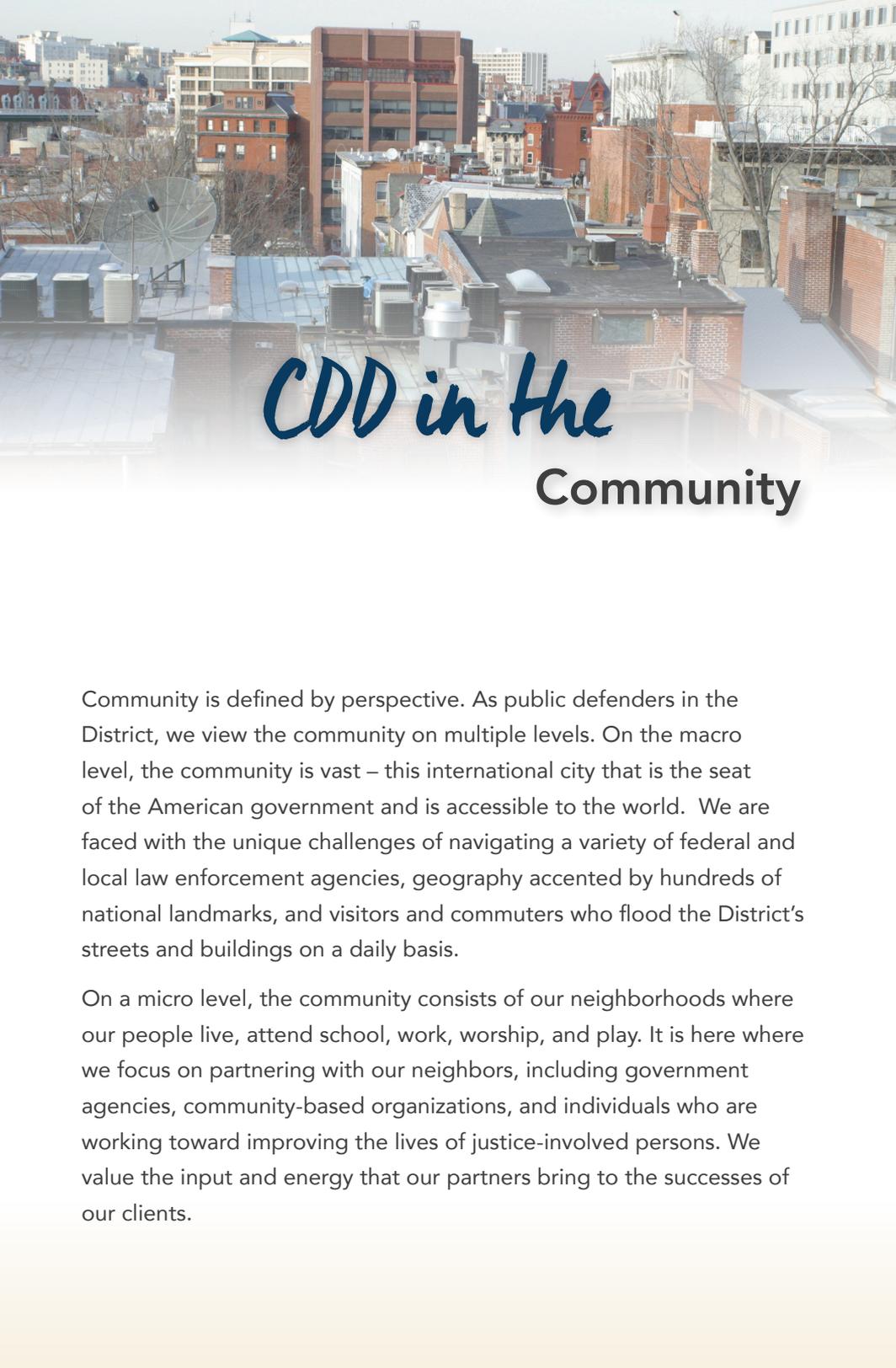
# How does JSP help juveniles?

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## JSP LEGAL SERVICES & ADVOCACY

- Institutional disciplinary hearings and appeals
- Juvenile aftercare revocation hearings (called Community Status Review Hearings) and appeals
- Post-commitment legal matters before the Superior Court of the District of Columbia
- Institutional grievances (medical, educational, behavioral health, segregation, programming)
- Presentation of “Know Your Rights” programs inside YSC and New Beginnings, and in the community
- Orientations for youth who are newly admitted to YSC and New Beginnings
- Referrals for services such as education advocacy and behavioral health treatment
- Training of defense attorneys in post-commitment representation
- Visits to local placements to monitor conditions for committed youth
- Collaboration with other advocates to achieve systemic change for detained and committed youth





# *CDD in the* Community

Community is defined by perspective. As public defenders in the District, we view the community on multiple levels. On the macro level, the community is vast – this international city that is the seat of the American government and is accessible to the world. We are faced with the unique challenges of navigating a variety of federal and local law enforcement agencies, geography accented by hundreds of national landmarks, and visitors and commuters who flood the District's streets and buildings on a daily basis.

On a micro level, the community consists of our neighborhoods where our people live, attend school, work, worship, and play. It is here where we focus on partnering with our neighbors, including government agencies, community-based organizations, and individuals who are working toward improving the lives of justice-involved persons. We value the input and energy that our partners bring to the successes of our clients.

Accessibility. Visibility. Versatility. These are the hallmarks of PDS's community defense model. You will find our dedicated and determined teams at resource fairs, symposiums, clinics, and other events in the neighborhood geared toward educating the public about its rights. We are determined to bring the answers to the individuals who deserve to know the answers but might not know who or how to ask.



*Providing legal services to individuals during the transition from arrest to incarceration to successful community reintegration.*



# The People of CDD



COMMITMENT TO LEADERSHIP

**CDD MANAGEMENT TEAM** *Fall 2017*



CHAMPIONS BEYOND THE COURTROOM

**PRISONER & REENTRY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM** *Fall 2017*



*THE CDD FAMILY*

**COMMUNITY DEFENDER DIVISION** *Fall 2017*



VOICES FOR OUR CHILDREN

**JUVENILE SERVICES PROGRAM** *Fall 2017*



SUPPORTING OUR TEAM

**PARALEGAL, OFFICE MANAGER, INVESTIGATOR** *Fall 2017*

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Community Defender Division  
2nd Floor

# Operations

## All are welcome!

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We are conveniently located in the Southeast community of Washington, D.C. only steps away from the Potomac Avenue Metro station (Orange/Blue/Silver lines) and several D.C. Metro Bus lines for convenient access and proximity to government and nonprofit community service organizations that also serve people with D.C. criminal and juvenile records. Our entrance faces Pennsylvania Avenue, SE. We are located on the 2nd floor.

We recommend that you call us before visiting the office to confirm when we will be accepting walk-in visitors. We also understand that our customers lead busy lives – please call us if you would like to make an appointment that meets your scheduling needs.

# Contact us!

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## COMMUNITY DEFENDER DIVISION

1442 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE  
2nd Floor  
Washington, DC 20003  
TOLL FREE: 1.800.341.2582  
Phone: 202.824.2801  
Fax: 202.824.2819  
Website: [pdsdc.org](http://pdsdc.org)



## PRISONER & REENTRY LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

*CDD Office*  
202.824.2801

Walk-ins welcome – please call for hours of operation or to schedule an appointment.

## JUVENILE SERVICES PROGRAM

*YSC Office*  
202.576.8368

*New Beginnings Youth Development Center Office*  
202.299.3132



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