



## Memorandum

---

**To:** Public Safety Interim Budget Committee

**From:** Daniel Guzynski, Chief of Prosecution Services Bureau

**cc:** Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen

**Date:** June 12, 2024

**Re:** Interim Budget Committee – June 20, 2024

---

### **PSB Leadership**

Dan Guzynski, Chief of Prosecution Services Bureau  
Meghann Paddock, Department of Justice Training Coordinator

### **General Prosecutors**

Thorin Geist  
Jordan Salo  
Selene Koepke  
Eric Kitzmiller  
Caitlin Creighton

### **Specialized Prosecutors**

Mike Gee           Half time general prosecutor and half time FWP Prosecutor (50% funded by FWP)  
Patrick Moody     Full time Department of Corrections Prosecutor (100% funded by DOC)  
John Nesbitt       Full time Montana State Fund Prosecutor (100% funded by State Fund)  
Ed Hirsch           Traffic Safety Resource Prosecutor (100% funded by DOT)

### **Paralegals**

Maggie Sowisdral  
Megan Schneckloth  
Tia Corwin

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders  
PO Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026  
Contactdoj@mt.gov  
mtdoj.gov



### **PSB Current Case Load**

PSB's primary mission is prosecuting criminal cases on behalf of counties that request assistance. Cases are referred to PSB when the case is too complex for the local county attorney to prosecute or when the county attorney has a conflict.

PSB's current caseload consists of mostly of homicides and sexual assault cases. PSB currently has 118 total cases and 59 DOC cases in 39 counties.

### **Homicide and Attempted Homicide Cases**

PSB is currently prosecuting 28 homicide/attempted homicide cases. PSB has carried approximately this number of homicide cases during the last couple of years. This number has increased dramatically since 2017.

### **Sexual Assault Cases**

PSB is currently prosecuting 30 sexual assault cases. PSB has carried approximately this number of homicides during the last couple of years.

### **Declination of Cases**

During the last several years, PSB has communicated with the Montana County Attorney Association that PSB does not have a lot of capacity to handle additional cases; however, that it is PSB's policy to accept homicide and sexual assault cases. PSB has advised county attorneys to rely on neighboring counties for assistance in cases that do not involve homicide or sexual assault. Since tracking declination of county cases began in October 2024, PSB has declined nine cases due to lack of resources.

### **PSB Other Duties**

PSB attorneys and staff also have a prominent role in training prosecutors and law enforcement throughout Montana. PSB attorneys interact with prosecutors daily to provide technical expertise. PSB members work with DOJ's executive team on various projects including drafting of proposed legislation. Most notably during the 2023 session was the revamping of the human trafficking laws.

///

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders  
PO Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026  
Contactdoj@mt.gov  
mtdoj.gov

---

AUSTIN KNUDSEN

---



---

STATE OF MONTANA

---

### **Costs of Prosecution**

Counties do not reimburse DOJ for the costs of PSB counsel or paralegals for their travel, which includes transportation, hotel, and per diem. Counties do pay the costs of all trial expenses including expert witness fees, witness travel, transcripts, and preparation of exhibits.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

215 North Sanders  
PO Box 201401  
Helena, MT 59620-1401

(406) 444-2026  
Contactdoj@mt.gov  
mtdoj.gov