


GENERAL OFFICE MEMORANDUM 25-112

TO: ALL DISTRICT ATTORNEY PERSONNEL

FROM: NATHAN J. HOCHMAN 
District Attorney

SUBJECT: UPDATE: STATE OF THE OFFICE

DATE: AUGUST 26, 2025

First and foremost, this message is one of **profound gratitude**.

I have had the genuine pleasure to meet many of you during my regular visits to our downtown and local offices, outings that have invariably been among my favorite events of the week. I am excited to meet the rest of you in the months and years ahead – if not at your workplace, perhaps at a celebration or over ice cream.

While I am thoroughly enjoying our visits, I know I am seeing but a glimpse of your boundless dedication and the outstanding work you perform, day in and day out: reviewing cases for filing consideration; developing, negotiating, arguing, and trying cases; conducting research; writing briefs; carrying out investigations; advocating for victims; assisting each other in myriad ways; and providing critically needed support to our attorneys and our Office generally.

I appreciate that the reduction of personnel in our Office in recent years has required that you do more with less. As but one example, over the past eight months, many of you have generously supported our charge evaluation team in reducing our eCER queue even as new cases continue to be presented. Since December 2024, you have **reduced the eCER backlog from 9,688 cases to around 6,100 cases and falling** – a truly extraordinary feat – in light of the continual, significant flow of cases that keep coming. That backlog reduction directly translates into scores and scores of victims who have finally seen their cases reviewed and filed. For them, their perception of criminal justice in their lives has now taken a positive turn. For the law enforcement officers who have spent significant time and effort in investigating these cases, their work has now resulted in criminals being charged. And for the public, each case that is processed is another building block in creating a more safe and just community.

As I continue to work with and learn from everyone in this Office, I have received a number of suggestions to help us carry out our mission more effectively and efficiently. My general philosophy with such suggestions is that if they make sense and may be impactful, I will try them out. If they work, I will scale them up; if they don't work, I will go back to the drawing board and try something else.

One example of a suggestion that is working out is our insistence that preliminary hearing courts require defense attorneys who seek a continuance to provide our Office with two court days'

notice, in compliance with Penal Code Section 1050, subdivision (b). This provision has been routinely disregarded by defense counsel and the bench, creating havoc with our witnesses and victims who appear on the day of a preliminary hearing only to have it continued by a late filed motion. As a result of our insistence that defense attorneys and the courts follow this statutory mandate, we have seen a **95% decline in late-filed 1050 motions in our Central Operations preliminary hearing courts**. I will continue to try to eliminate unfair practices of defense counsel and hold courts accountable for rulings in contravention of the law. To the extent you have any suggestion on any practice, policy, or procedure of this Office, I strongly encourage you to submit that suggestion through LADANet's [Suggestion Box](#). These suggestions will get to the people who can evaluate and implement them, where appropriate.

On the subject of hiring, we have recognized the urgent need for more personnel. Indeed, I have yet to meet a Head Deputy who tells me they have enough people. We have also anticipated the County's constraints on our ability to bring personnel into our Office. Working as quickly and diligently as possible, we have recruited and hired exceptional candidates to join our ranks. Since December 2024, I am proud to report that this administration has hired **63 deputy district attorneys, 72 support staff members, 14 senior law clerks, 12 retired deputy district attorneys as part-time annuitants, and 12 investigators for the Bureau of Investigation**.

Over the next two months, we will be welcoming an additional 14 deputy district attorneys and 6 senior law clerks to our Office. The recent hires will bring the number of deputies in our Office to **809, the highest total since 2021-2022**. I hope this number will be increased by 20 more once the law school graduates we have brought in as senior law clerks are sworn in as attorneys.

As many of you are aware, Los Angeles County is facing unprecedented financial challenges this fiscal year that have required our Office to cut our annual budget by 8.5%, a dramatic increase from the originally announced curtailment of 3%. ([LA County Budget Curtailments as of April 2025](#)). Over my repeated and vehement objections at the highest levels of County government, **our budget for 2025-2026 has been slashed by nearly \$25 million**, eliminating a number of vital additional vacancies I was eager to fill: 64 deputy district attorney positions, 65 support staff positions, and 26 positions in the Bureau of Investigation. Through it all, though, I have upheld my highest priority – that no one in our Office would lose their job.

If the County demands still more budgetary curtailments, as have been proposed, please know that my resistance in shielding our Office and its personnel from the effects of the cuts will be uncompromising. I look forward to working in close partnership with the extremely dedicated leaders of the various employee groups within our Office – specifically, the ADDA, SEIU, ALADS, and POPA – to defend our Office and its personnel, easily the most important asset of our Office.

For now, notwithstanding the fiscal challenges that lie ahead and the significant workload each of you continues to shoulder, the state of our Office is strong. It is strong because of who you are and your abiding commitment to criminal justice and public safety. **I could not be prouder to be your District Attorney.**

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