

MAJOR EVENTS HISTORY OF S.C. COMMISSION ON INDIGENT DEFENSE

The agency provided the information below in the Program Evaluation Report it submitted in March 2018.¹

- 1993
 - 1993 Act 164
 - Commission on Indigent Defense created
 - Office of Indigent Defense Created
 - Tyree Lee appointed as First Executive Director
 - Office of Indigent Defense primary duties:
 - Serve as the entity which distributes all funds appropriated by the General Assembly for the defense of indigents
 - Maintain a list of death-penalty certified attorneys
 - Compile accurate statistical data covering the indigent defense system
 - Report to the General Assembly on the Indigent Defense System
 - Three funds established:
 - Capital Defense Fund
 - Conflicts Fund
 - Public Defender Fund
- 1997
 - Legislature began appropriating funds to pay for representation of indigent persons in abuse and neglect cases, termination of parental rights cases, protective placement cases, and as counsel for guardians' ad litem in those cases.
- 1998
 - Legislature approved method of funding legal aid, the civil counterpart of the Public Defender
 - Funding was placed under Indigent Defense only as a pass-through with the agency collecting and disbursing the funds to the local legal aid offices twice per year.
- 2001
 - As a result of the financial crisis, OID took an initial budget reduction of 42.65%, proportionately the largest reduction of any State agency.
 - Further mid-year cuts increased the reduction to more than 55% of the pre-2000 budget.
- 2005
 - T. Patton Adams appointed as Executive Director
 - 2005 Act 103
 - Membership of the Commission revised
 - Duties of the Commission, Office of Indigent Defense and Executive Director revised

- The Division of Appellate Defense was created within the Commission on Indigent Defense
- 2007
 - 2007 Act 108
 - Membership of Commission Revised
 - The Circuit Public Defender system was established creating sixteen circuit-wide public defender offices in place of the old system of independent public defender corporations.
- 2009
 - Division of Capital Defense created to provide specialized representation in capital murder cases throughout the State
- 2012-2013
 - Contract system implemented for appointment of conflict attorneys in criminal cases, appointment of attorneys in Family Court abuse and neglect and termination of parental rights cases, and appointment of attorneys in certain civil cases such as Post-Conviction Relief and Sexually Violent Predator cases.
- 2014
 - Public Defense 100 series of training seminars and workshops established as an annual program for training new public defenders.
- 2015
 - Position of Deputy General Counsel and Training Director established to provide legal services and stable oversight, coordination and expansion of agency legal training programs.
- 2016
 - Assistant Director Lisa Graves retired
 - Lori Frost named Assistant Director
- 2017
 - Executive Director Patton Adams retired
 - Hugh Ryan appointed as Executive Director
 - Hervery Young appointed Deputy Director and General Counsel
 - Public defender training program expanded to include regular trainings for juvenile defense attorneys.

¹ The agency was asked, "Please provide the major events history of the agency by year, from its origin to the present, in a bulleted list. Include the names of each director with the year the director started and major events (e.g., programs added, cut, departments/divisions changed, etc.)."