

HOLISTIC DEFENSE PROGRAM

Alaska Public Defender Agency
2019

WHAT IS HOLISTIC DEFENSE?

- "The holistic mindset is an ever-searching one: it critiques the traditional and contemporary practice methods, searches for improved delivery of defense services and constantly presses for role reformation."
- The holistic defense focuses on "life outcomes", not just success in the criminal proceeding.

PILLAR ONE- BEYOND THE LEGAL ISSUES

- *Holistic defense begins with a commitment to addressing clients' most pressing legal and social support needs (non-legal).*
- *Defenders navigate clients through the non-legal obstacles to avoid return to the system.*



WHY HOLLISTIC APPROACH?

“We don’t accomplish anything in this world alone...”

Sandra Day O’Connor



“The Effects of Holistic Defense on Criminal Justice Outcomes,” The Harvard Law Review

The study examined over half a million cases in Bronx Criminal Court over a 10-year period.

The study found that the implementation of holistic public defender model in the Bronx:

- helped clients avoid 1.1 million days of incarceration,
- reduced incarceration rates by 16%,
- cut pre-trial detention by 9%
- shortened sentence length by 24%, and
- saved New York taxpayers an estimated \$165 million on housing costs alone.
