



Across the country, governments commonly spend three times as much on prosecution as on public defense...

— Justice Expenditure and Employment, Bureau of Justice Statistics, U.S. Department of Justice, 1990.

“There’s no doubt in my mind that there are innocent people at the penitentiary right now ... Frequently, we did not know the facts behind the case before entering a guilty plea.”

— A retired public defender from Quitman County, Mississippi, who was so short on resources that he could not hire an investigator for any of the non-capital cases he handled over 10 years.

Public defenders should have the same access to the same resources as prosecutors, including legal research, investigators, experts or scientific testing. But in many states across the country, they do not....

Forty years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the landmark case of *Gideon v. Wainwright* that the Constitution guarantees access to legal representation for all Americans facing criminal charges.

However, in many courtrooms across the country, public defense attorneys do not have access to the same resources that are available for other branches of the court system. This lack of resources puts public defense attorneys at a disadvantage in trying to fulfill their critical role in the justice system.

If the resources placed on the scales of justice are not in balance, we do not have a fair justice system.

Public defense should participate as an equal partner in the justice system and there should be parity between the resources available to the defense counsel and the prosecution. **No Exceptions.**

To learn more about the campaign and the issues, visit www.NoExceptions.org.

NO EXCEPTIONS
It's the American Way