



Presented by the City Attorney's Office
Yibin Shen - City Attorney
Julia Gonzales - Chief Assistant City Prosecutor



**PROSECUTION & PUBLIC RIGHTS
UNIT**

Annual Report

2025



Introduction

The Prosecution and Public Rights Unit of the Alameda City Attorney's Office, having completed its fourth full year of operations, is pleased to present its fourth annual report. The Unit was created at the direction of Alameda voters in November 2020 by their overwhelming approval of Measure AA in an effort to strengthen local control and accountability. As the only Unit of its kind in northern California, the Unit represents the People of the State of California in misdemeanor criminal matters, enforces fair housing and consumer protection laws, and provides community education on the above topics.



Mission Statement

The Prosecution and Public Rights Unit of the Alameda City Attorney's Office represents the People of the State of California in misdemeanor criminal matters. The Unit is further charged with bringing affirmative litigation in response to violations of consumer protection and fair housing laws, and protecting consumers against fraud and unfair business practices. City prosecutors are dedicated to promoting and improving public safety and the quality of life in Alameda, through the fair, compassionate and effective administration of justice.

Meet the Team



Julia Gonzales, Chief Assistant City Prosecutor

Ginger Lewis Dole, Assistant City Prosecutor

Aaron Chase, Deputy City Prosecutor

Brian Fedorov, Deputy City Prosecutor

Adam Radinsky, Special Counsel

Samantha Gatton, Legal Fellow

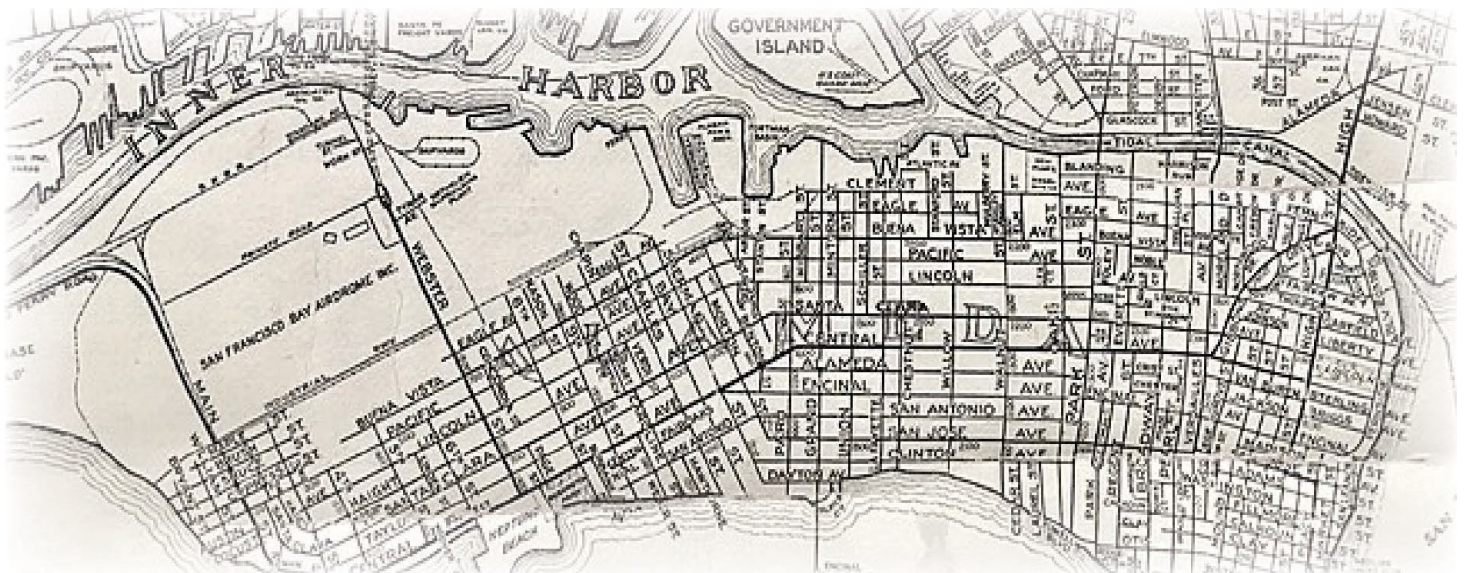
Gene Diaz, Investigator

Bal Sindal, Victim Advocate

Elizabeth Martinez, Paralegal

Rico Fenix, Paralegal

Jay Garcia, Administrative Technician

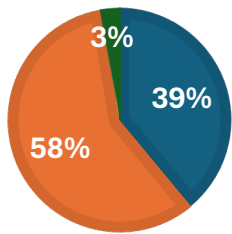


Fair Housing and Consumer Protection

2025 BY THE NUMBERS

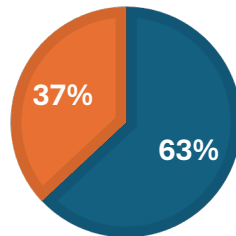
INQUIRIES RECEIVED

- Telephone (433)
- Email (648)
- Walk-In (30)



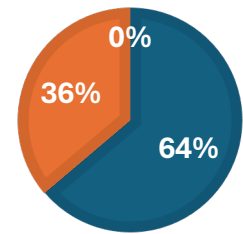
COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

- Housing Cases (58)
- Consumer Cases (34)
- Labor Cases(-)



CASES CLOSED

- Housing Cases (60)
- Consumer Cases (34)
- Labor Cases (-)



In 2025 the Public Rights team received 1102 inquiries from the public, yielding 92 complaints. The Unit closed 94 cases over the year.



CAO RECEIVES PRESTIGIOUS NATIONAL PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

The Alameda City Attorney's Office was awarded the 2025 American Bar Association's (ABA) Hodson Award, a prestigious national recognition presented annually to one government or public-sector law office for outstanding performance and extraordinary service. This award celebrates the Alameda City Attorney's Office's commitment to excellence and its innovative approach to advancing the City Council's strategic objectives of protecting public safety by justly enforcing state and local laws and preserving affordable housing by preventing unnecessary displacement.

The ABA commended the Office's urgency and resolve in 2021 to protect 50 families living on floating homes in the Barnhill Marina from imminent housing displacement. When a new landlord sought to increase rents by as much as 178%, putting many tenants at risk of becoming unhoused, the Alameda City Attorney's Office drafted and vigorously defended an urgency ordinance to extend local rent control protections to maritime residential tenancies. In November 2024, the Alameda County Superior Court ruled fully in favor of the City, imposing more than \$335,000 in penalties against the marina owners and issuing a permanent injunction to prevent further harassment of tenants.

In August 2025 the ABA presented the Hodson Award to the City Attorney's Office in a ceremony at City Hall. City Attorney Office staff were joined by many members of the Barnhill Marina community for the celebration.



2025 COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Public Rights team is committed to public engagement and education on important issues affecting both tenants and landlords. In 2025 the Unit provided bi-monthly presentations, one online and one in-person, on the housing mediation program. Additionally, the Unit offered Q&A sessions at Alameda Renters Coalition meetings and has worked with the Alameda Police Department to offer officers best practices relating to housing disputes. Finally, on an approximately monthly basis, the Unit publishes educational articles in local newspapers and to social media platforms targeting the most common housing law violations in that given month.

5th Annual Fair Housing Workshop

On April 17, 2025 the Unit presented its fourth annual – and second in-person – Fair Housing Workshop at City Hall. Seven guest speakers presented across six informational sessions. Eighty-six members of the public attended. Topics included:

- ❖ City Attorney's Mediation Program
- ❖ Fair Housing Laws
- ❖ Disability Rights
- ❖ End of Emergency COVID Protections and current laws
- ❖ Relocation Laws
- ❖ Rent Program & Services

2025 IN THE NEWS

The Unit regularly authors articles in local news outlets to highlight emerging fair housing issues and educate the community. In 2025, the Unit published articles addressing trends observed in Alameda. These articles aimed to raise awareness, share real-life examples, and provide practical guidance to help residents recognize red flags and avoid exploitation. This outreach reflects the Unit's broader commitment to public education, housing equity, and proactive community engagement.

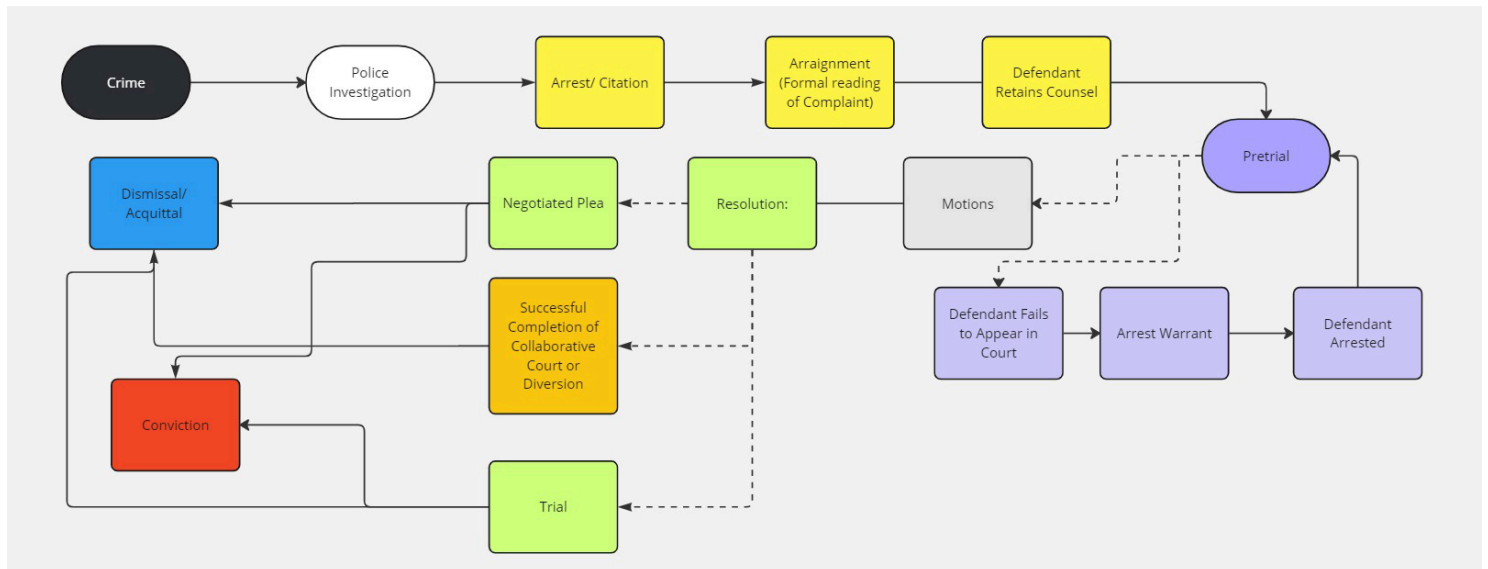


Criminal Prosecutions

Since its creation by Alameda voters through the adoption of Measure AA in 2020, the Prosecution and Public Rights Unit of the Alameda City Attorney’s Office has been tasked with prosecuting all state law misdemeanor offenses, including misdemeanor wobbler offenses (i.e., crimes that can be charged as either a felony or a misdemeanor) within the City of Alameda. The Unit’s cases have encompassed a wide range of state law offenses, including thefts, commercial burglaries, reckless driving, DUIs, assaults (including assaults with deadly weapons), sexual batteries, and weapons/firearms offenses. The City Attorney’s Office works collaboratively with the Alameda Police Department (APD) and the District Attorney’s Office to review and process these incidents thoroughly and expeditiously and to commence criminal actions where appropriate.



Overview of the Criminal Process

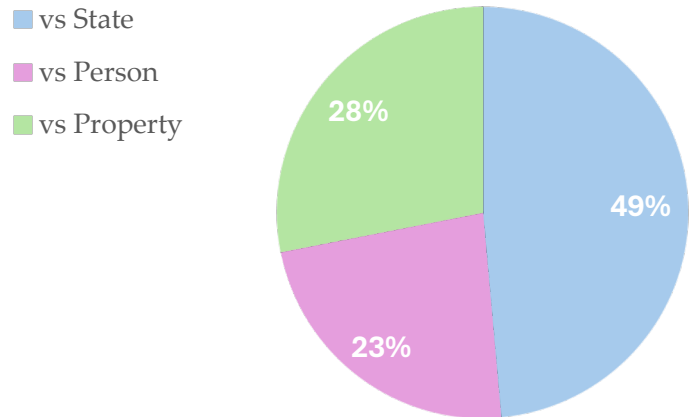


2025 BY THE NUMBERS

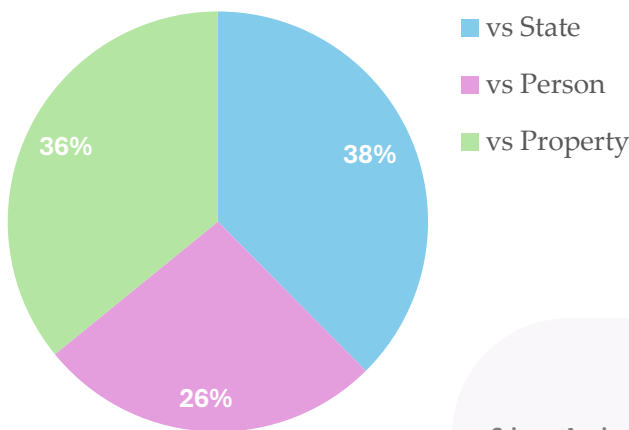
In 2025 the Unit reviewed 1233 cases for Charging

This represents a 445% increase from 2020 baseline and 272% increase over the Unit's first full year of prosecution in 2021.

CASES REVIEWED BY TYPE



CASES FILED BY TYPE



In 2025 the Unit filed 708 New Cases

This represents a 594% increase from 2020 baseline and 259% increase over the Unit's first full year of prosecution in 2021.

In 2025 the Unit resolved 455 cases with an 85% successful outcome rate.

BEHIND THE BUCKETS: Types of Offenses

Crimes Against Property

- PETTY THEFT
- CONSPIRACY
- RETAIL THEFT
- BURGLARY
- GRAND THEFT
- VANDALISM
- ARSON
- CRIMINAL TRESPASS
- TAKING A VEHICLE
- FALSE IMPERSONATION
- RECEIVING STOLEN PROPERTY

Crimes Against Person

- ASSAULT WITH A DEADLY WEAPON
- BATTERY
- BRANDISHING
- EMBEZZLEMENT
- DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
- ELDER ABUSE
- SEXUAL BATTERY
- HATE CRIME
- CHILD MOLESTATION
- CRIMINAL THREATS
- CONCEALED FIREARM
- STALKING
- INVASION OF PRIVACY


Crimes Against State

- DUI
- DRIVING WITH A SUSPENDED DL
- RECKLESS DRIVING
- HIT AND RUN
- POSSESSION OF BURGLARY TOOLS
- VIOLATING COURT ORDER
- RESISTING ARREST
- INDECENT EXPOSURE
- POSSESSION OF A CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

PROSECUTION UNIT LAUNCHES VICTIM SERVICE PROGRAM

With unanimous City Council approval, the PPRU launched its first-in-City Victim Service Program. The PPRU's victim advocates provide crisis intervention, case management, and support services to victims and witnesses of crime throughout the criminal justice process. The advocates serve to educate victims about their rights, connect them with available services, resources, housing, and financial support and act as a liaison between victims and criminal justice personnel, agencies, other City departments, and community partners.

Victim Services of the City of Alameda City Attorney's Office empower victims and families affected by crime with compassionate support, guidance, and resources, working to create a safer and more just community.

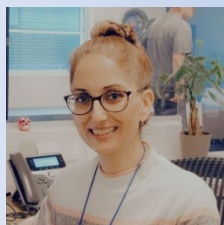
<p>Services for Victims of Crimes</p> <p>CHILDREN: This program provides child victims and their families access to services such as case management, advocacy and mental health through our partnership with CPS and other community agencies.</p> <p>DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: Through our partnership with community-based organizations, domestic violence victims and survivors have access to the full range of culturally and linguistically competent services including restraining orders and referrals to legal assistance, shelters, safety planning, counseling, support groups and case management.</p> <p>ELDER ABUSE/FRAUD: This program focuses on the needs of our seniors. Support for victims of physical, emotional, financial abuse and neglect.</p>	<p>Basic Services</p> <p>Navigating Justice: Support & Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation to the Criminal Justice system • Case Status/Case Update • Restitution • Victim Impact Statement <p>Advocacy & Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crisis Intervention • Emergency Assistance • Temporary Restraining Order Assistance • Counseling • Safety Planning • Crime Prevention Information • Resources & Referrals Assistance <p>Financial Assistance</p> <p>Victim Compensation Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical & Dental Expenses • Counseling • Income Loss • Funeral/Burial Expenses • Home Security • Relocation Expenses • Crime Scene Cleanup (Homicide Cases Only) 	<p>Victim Compensation Program</p>  <p>The California State Victim Compensation Board covers expenses like medical/dental bills, income loss, ambulance, counseling, relocation, funeral/burial, crime scene cleanup in homicide cases, and support for dependents of deceased and disabled crime victims.</p> <p>For any Victim Compensation Program related questions, please contact our Victim Services Unit at 510-206-1657</p>
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In 2025 the PPRU applied for and was awarded \$500k by the federal Byrne State Crisis Intervention Program Grant to fund Victim Services. The goal of the program is a multipronged approach to decreasing gun violence in California.

In service of this objective the Victim Service program will engage in a four-part initiative focused on training, outreach, and victim advocacy, particularly in domestic violence and firearm-related cases. The advocate will assist in officer training on Gun Violence Restraining Orders (GVROs), lead public outreach, support victims

directly, and build interagency networks.

Unit Spotlight: Meet City Attorney Victim Advocate Bal Sindal



At the end of 2025, Bal Sindal joined the PPRU as the City's first Victim Service Advocate, bringing 17 years of experience as an advocate working in jurisdictions throughout California and Illinois. Most recently Bal served as the Chief of the Marin County District Attorney's Office Victim Services Division.

Race Blind Charging

In response to newly enshrined legislation as of January 1st, 2025, the Unit has instituted a Race-Blind charging protocol in compliance with Penal Code section 741. The measure requires prosecutors to redact information that could identify a person's race from police reports before making a charging decision. The Unit currently has appointed additional staff to review and redact the incident reports for race information before the charging deputy conducts her initial review for charges. The Unit was required to quickly and nimbly come up with a solution to race-blind charging due to the fact that the county's current case management system does not provide for these necessary redactions and the team needed to implement a distinct process.