



State Appellate Defender Office

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SADO's mission is to provide the best possible outcomes for its clients, through holistic and client-centered lawyering. SADO consists of three divisions: the public defender division, the Criminal Defense Resource Center (CDRC), and the Michigan Appellate Assigned Counsel System (MAACS). SADO's public defenders represent ~25% of poor people who appeal their criminal convictions, and private attorneys from MAACS represent the rest.

SADO's public defenders have helped exonerate 19 wrongfully imprisoned clients in recent years and in 2017, reduced the prison terms of their clients by 730 years. SADO's Juvenile Lifer Unit represents 193 of Michigan's juvenile lifers; 76 of these clients have now received new sentences allowing for their release, and 35 have been released. SADO's public defenders regularly represent clients in the Michigan Court of Appeals and Supreme Court. They have represented individuals before the US Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit and the United States Supreme Court.

SADO trains lawyers throughout the state through the CDRC and provides a wide range of resources for trial and appellate criminal practitioners. New SADO lawyers receive a year of training and mentorship.

SADO mentors law students through the Criminal Appellate Practice Clinics at several of Michigan's law schools, and a rigorous summer internship program. Students in these programs work with SADO lawyers on real cases and learn about all aspects of the criminal appellate process.



SADO Attorneys Mike Waldo and Malaika Ramsey-Heath with SADO Client Konrad Montgomery. Mr. Montgomery was exonerated in July 2016.

SADO helps returning citizens and supports the community through its *Project Reentry*, which hosts the *Your Best Life Reentry Workshop* series and publishes a monthly newsletter, *The Drum*. Both are designed to help returning citizens with essential life skills necessary for a successful transition home. SADO also offers a range of self-help resources for incarcerated people and materials and workshops for their friends and family.



SADO Staff Picnic, August 3, 2018.

Working at SADO means joining a diverse, caring, and fun staff of lawyers, investigators, mitigation specialists, social workers, and administrative personnel. For more, see:

www.SADO.org

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