



children's
JUSTICE CENTER
SALT LAKE COUNTY

Salt Lake County District Attorney

2021 Budget Presentation
October 27, 2020

COVID-19 Budget Preparations

Immediate and Ongoing Evaluation of Budget Status

Released all Temporary Employees deemed non-essential to DA operations

Released majority of Law Clerks

Froze ALL travel/training expenditures

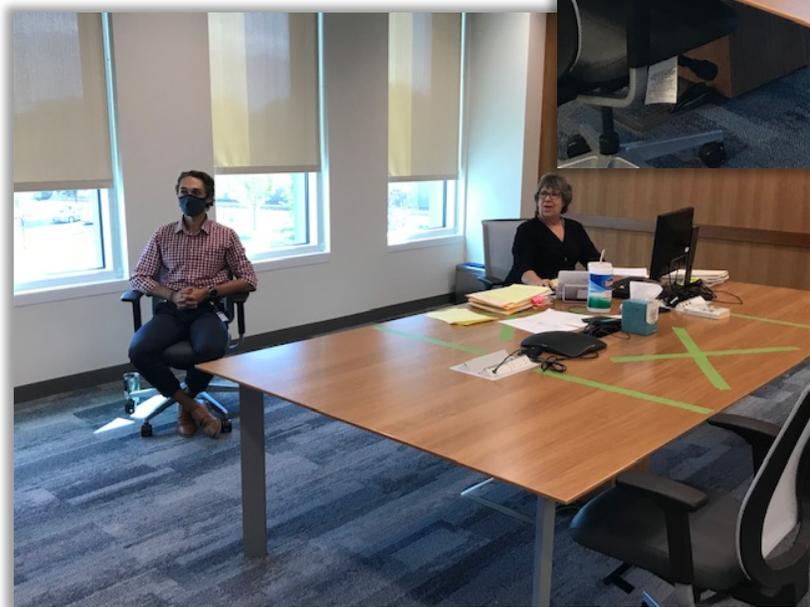
All requests for expert witnesses further evaluated

Utilized CARES funding to acquire necessary equipment for remote operations and upgrades to expand video court operations

Pursued DOJ Grant funds in conjunction with Sheriff's Office



COVID-19 and DA Remote Operations



COVID-19 Ongoing Budget Challenges

Maintaining Court Operations with Reduced Staff

Reduced resources for prosecution (Experts, Transcription, Interpretation, Witness Travel)

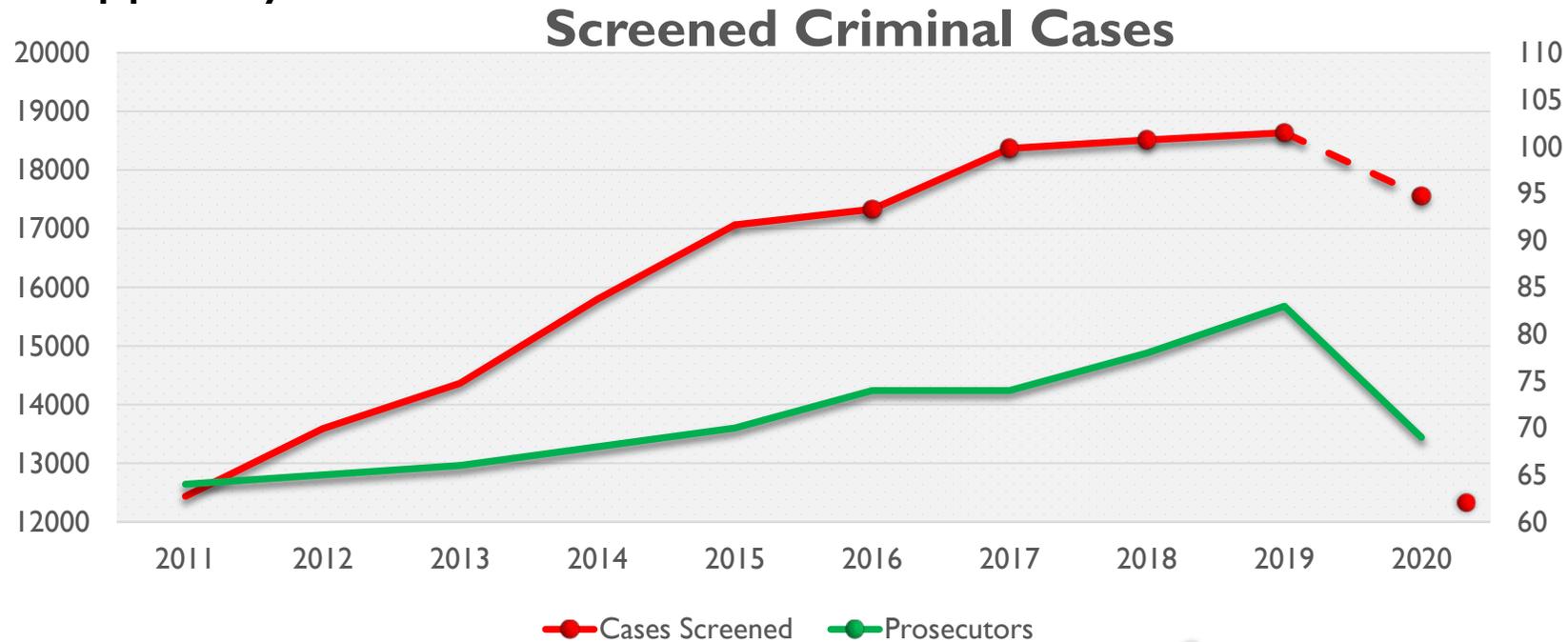
Expiration of CARES funding for temporary staff

Reduced resources for continuing legal education



Cases Submitted for Screening

- ▶ In 2019, the District Attorney's Office screened **18,636** cases for criminal charges.
- ▶ In 2020, the District Attorney's Office is on track to screen **17,559** cases
- ▶ While the cases submitted has dropped by 5.7%, the number of prosecutors we have has dropped by 14%

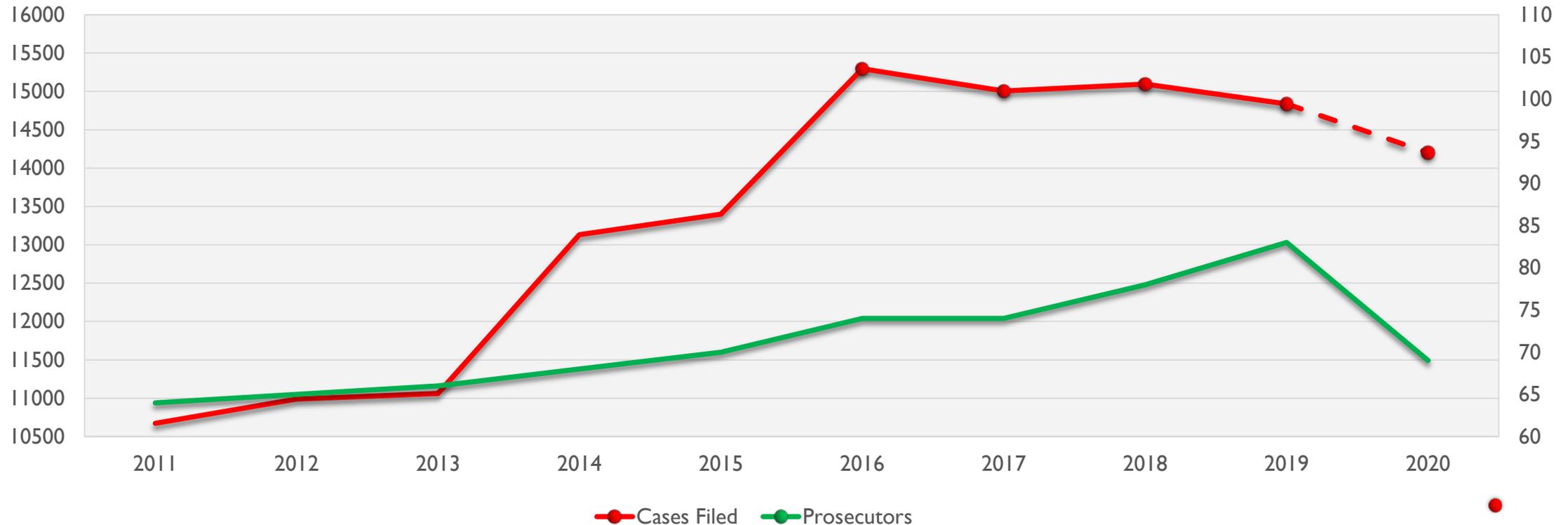


Adult Criminal Charges Filed

In 2020, the District Attorney's Office is on track to file 14,202 criminal cases.

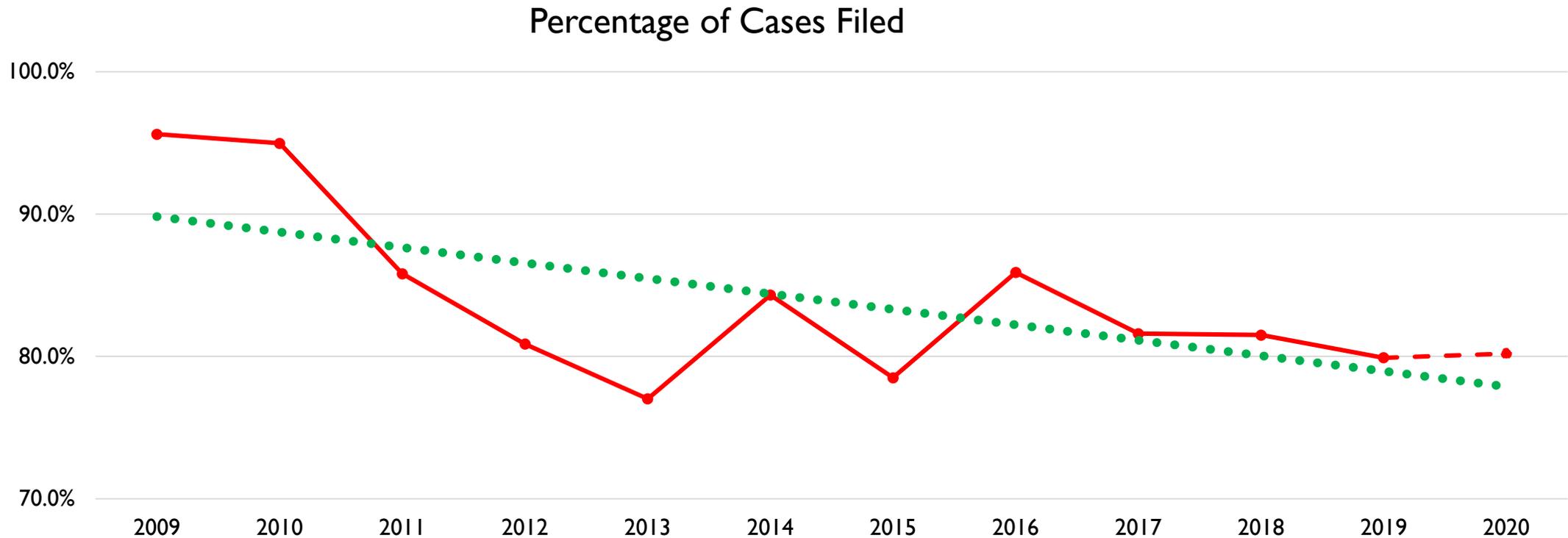
While the cases filed has dropped by 4.3%, the number of prosecutors we have has dropped by 14%

Cases Filed



Percentage of Cases Filed

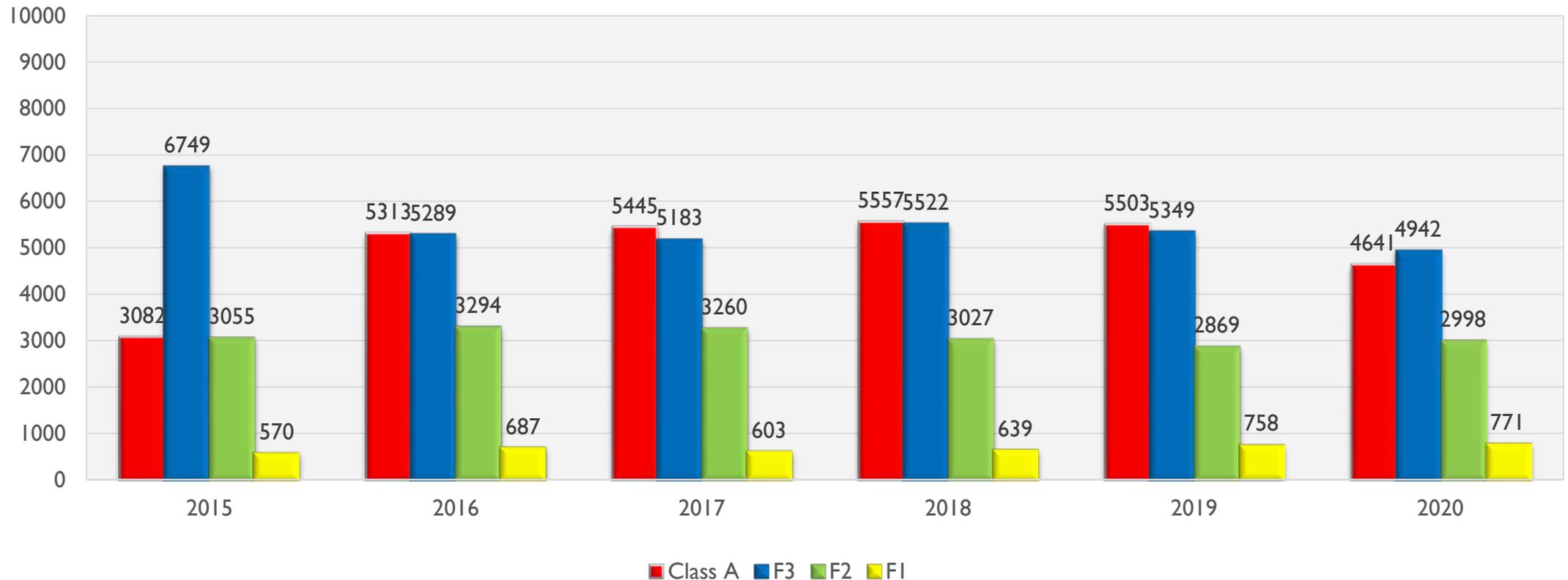
- ▶ Since 2011, we have consistently filed between 77%-85% of cases received for screening and are on track to file 80% of cases received in 2020.



Filed Cases and Workloads

97.6% of cases filed are Felonies and Misdemeanor A, aka *Felony Light*

Case Types Filed



Caseloads & Workloads During the Time of COVID

No Jury Trials Since March, but only 2–week period with NO court hearings

Preparation for video court VERY intensive

Prosecutors have vigorously pursued pleas, where appropriate, to ease backlog of court proceedings

Bulk of court proceedings are NOT Jury Trials

Domestic violence cases have NOT decreased and have become even more difficult to prosecute because of the dynamics of COVID-19

With the beginning of school, cases of child abuse have recently seen a dramatic increase

Prosecuting 4.3% fewer cases with 14% fewer attorneys



Court Operations – Ongoing Challenges – *Jury Trials*

Currently 638 jury trials in court backlog

- First Degree Felonies – 248
- Second Degree Felonies – 118
- Third Degree Felonies – 132
- Class A Misdemeanors – 99
- Class B Misdemeanors – 41

Court Actively Planning to Resume In-Person Jury Trials upon Health Department Clearance

Continued phased hiring of prosecutors as outlined in our September 29th presentation



2020 Approved Budget Adjustment – UPDATE

Open Until Filled job announcement posted October 13th to hire 4 prosecutors in October 2020 and 4 prosecutors in December 2020

- As of October 22nd, 18 applicants from CA to NY and all points in between

Job announcement will remain open into 2021, and interviews and hiring will occur on a rolling basis as per the following timeline:

- October 16, 2020 – 4 Prosecuting Attorneys
- December 11, 2020 – 4 Prosecuting Attorneys
- February 26, 2021 – 4 Prosecuting Attorneys
- April 30, 2021 – 4 Prosecuting Attorneys

Interjurisdictional hires will be used, where appropriate, to expedite hiring process



2021 Budget Request – Mayor Proposed

Reduction of COVID Contra	\$1,117,597
Legal Investigator – Salary Annualization	<u>48,122</u>
TOTAL 2021 REQUEST	<u>\$1,165,719</u>

*Reduction request only applies to DA Personnel Appropriation Unit.
Budget Cut of \$465,000 to DA Operations Appropriation Unit is still
included in 2021 Budget.*



2021 Resource Needs – Importance of Continued Phased Restoration of Funding

Court has made the decision to resume jury trials and we have no option but to ensure we have adequate staffing to meet their demand

Backlog of untried cases is increasing every day jury trials are not held and the pressure to reduce the backlog will only increase, regardless of status of the pandemic

Even with the unknown start date, we must have a plan in place allowing us to meet the additional workload the resumption of jury trials will demand



COVID-19 and DA Remote Operations

