



Derwyn Bunton is the Chief District Defender for Orleans Parish Louisiana leading the Orleans Public Defenders Office. Prior to becoming Chief Defender, Mr. Bunton was the Executive Director of Juvenile Regional Services (JRS). JRS is the first stand-alone juvenile defender office in the nation and the first non-profit law office devoted to juvenile justice reform and front-line juvenile representation. He is also the former Associate Director of the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana (JJPL), a nonprofit juvenile justice reform and advocacy organization. Mr. Bunton graduated from New York University School of Law in 1998.

From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Bunton aided in monitoring the settlement agreement between the United States Department of Justice, JJPL, private plaintiffs and the State of Louisiana regarding Louisiana's juvenile prisons. He was part of the litigation team that sued Louisiana over the conditions of its juvenile prisons.

During Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Bunton was part of a team of advocates and lawyers assisting the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, the Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice and the Louisiana Department of Public Safety and Corrections locate and reunite youth and adults evacuated to multiple DOC facilities across the state after being trapped by floodwaters in the Orleans Parish Prison in the wake of Katrina. In 2007, he was part of a team of lawyers representing the "Jena 6" in Jena, Louisiana.