

Office of the Public Defender

MISSION

The mission of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) is to provide superior legal representation to indigent defendants in the State of Maryland by safeguarding fundamental individual rights and ensuring access to the guaranteed protections afforded by the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the Maryland Constitution and Declaration of Rights, and the laws of Maryland.

VISION

The vision of the OPD is to have an attorney available and present at each critical stage of all criminal proceedings in order to provide superior legal representation for all indigent persons charged with incarcerable crimes.

KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Goal 1. The OPD will provide sufficient and balanced resource distribution throughout the Agency.

- Obj. 1.1** Full time attorneys in the Appellate Division will handle no more than 30 cases annually, which is the Case Weighting Study standard for appellate attorneys.
- Obj. 1.2** Full time attorneys in the Collateral Review Division will handle no more than 111 cases annually, which is the Case Weighting Study standard for collateral review attorneys.
- Obj. 1.3** Full time attorneys in the Mental Health Division will handle no more than 843 cases annually, which is the Case Weighting Study standard for mental health attorneys.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of appellate cases	765	763	771	842	761	775	800
Number of appellate attorneys	29.5	26.5	26.5	27.5	27.5	29.5	29.5
Annual appellate caseload per attorney	26	29	29	31	28	26	27
Number of collateral review cases	2,338	2,300	1,990	2,236	2,450	2,700	2,900
Number of collateral review attorneys	16.0	13.0	13.5	15.0	17.0	18.0	19.0
Annual collateral review caseload per attorney	146	177	147	149	144	150	153
Number of mental health cases	6,359	6,377	7,007	6,981	7,624	8,000	8,300
Number of mental health attorneys	8.0	7.5	8.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.5
Annual mental health caseload per attorney	795	850	824	931	1,017	1,067	976

- Obj. 1.4** 50 percent of OPD district offices will handle no more Circuit Court cases than the Case Weighting Study standard for their region: urban = 156 cases per attorney; suburban = 140 cases per attorney; and rural = 191 cases per attorney.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	46,101	49,175	50,365	50,866	49,656	48,640	47,813
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	209	214	232	233	225	225	225

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	4,382	4,910	5,122	5,228	5,132	5,514	5,392
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	180	171	175	174	168	163	160
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	291	230	210	173	186	180	177
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	393	398	386	393	532	515	507
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	241	264	244	290	303	293	288
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	175	201	190	194	170	165	162
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	132	141	115	123	101	98	97
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	208	227	236	211	216	209	206
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	304	405	249	214	207	201	198
9 - Harford - rural (191)	255	243	227	283	252	244	240
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	200	185	182	222	238	231	227
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	272	290	230	269	264	256	251
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	140	156	143	199	187	181	178
¹ Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	17%	17%	25%	17%	25%	25%	25%

Obj. 1.5 By calendar year 2013, 40 percent of the OPD District offices will handle no more District Court cases than the Case Weighting Study standard for their region: urban = 728 cases per attorney; suburban = 705 cases per attorney; and rural = 630 cases per attorney.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	140,724	154,097	160,968	152,868	152,676	153,487	155,290
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	152	149	167	162	171	171	171
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	6,426	7,875	8,307	8,298	8,513	9,147	8,944
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	921	954	949	707	614	614	623
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	777	696	1,024	1,051	873	874	886
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	878	872	810	681	600	601	609
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	1,083	1,103	1,336	1,140	889	890	902
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,192	1,695	1,483	1,333	1,228	1,229	1,246
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	1,463	1,573	1,102	1,289	1,489	1,491	1,512

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	955	1,049	1,112	1,216	1,262	1,264	1,281
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	870	974	965	845	857	858	870
9 - Harford - rural (630)	1,537	1,353	818	729	725	725	735
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	752	747	680	712	713	714	724
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	1,057	1,127	728	659	618	619	627
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	728	680	854	864	820	821	832
¹ Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	0%	0%	0%	8%	25%	25%	25%

Obj. 1.6 75 percent of OPD district offices will handle no more Juvenile Court cases than the Case Weighting Study standard for their region: urban = 182 cases per attorney; suburban = 238 cases per attorney; and rural = 271 cases per attorney.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	16,689	14,596	13,615	14,410	13,251	12,238	11,254
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	75	72	64	68	67	67	67
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	2,974	2,982	2,398	2,341	2,444	2,626	2,568
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	167	108	99	85	75	85	66
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	435	411	453	311	336	210	226
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	163	114	85	92	78	86	62
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	400	436	370	375	311	164	130
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	151	138	522	418	381	343	275
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	156	167	107	109	93	78	65
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	269	247	170	105	118	138	128
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	171	198	202	195	167	140	117
9 - Harford - rural (271)	208	172	167	128	145	145	304
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	218	193	266	295	264	232	136
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	408	283	265	484	484	484	242
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	326	372	178	171	163	232	221
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	58%	58%	75%	58%	67%	83%	83%

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Goal 2. Pursuant to Maryland Code of Criminal Procedure Section 8-201, 8-301, 7-102 and Maryland Rule 4-331 (c) (3), the OPD will utilize all relevant scientific and investigative techniques to identify and exonerate wrongfully convicted inmates.

Obj. 2.1 The OPD will review and identify cases in which an inmate may have been wrongfully convicted and will investigate and where appropriate, litigate cases in which further factual and scientific investigation may lead to exoneration.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of requests for assistance with an innocence claim	300	262	250	225	201	150	125
Number of cases accepted for investigation after review	61	21	37	113	56	25	17
Number of cases litigated	23	25	18	16	12	10	8
Number of clients exonerated or achieving a vacated conviction	5	1	2	2	1	1	1

Goal 3. Inmate Services will provide superior, effective representation for public defender clients.

Obj. 3.1 The Inmate Services Division will provide representation upon request, to those individuals eligible to receive post conviction relief. Post conviction relief cases differ from innocence claim cases in that post conviction relief cases aim not to vacate convictions but to achieve a variety of outcomes , to include a corrected/vacated sentence, permission to file a late appeal, a new trial, etc.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2010 Act.	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Est.	2016 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	1,120	941	908	989	1,097	1,198	1,294
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	6	13	27	47	86	125	168
Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	141	190	232	254	251	257	282

NOTES

¹ Prior to calendar year 2014, this measure was calculated based on filled, not authorized positions.