

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 Post Conviction Defenders 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)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of appellate cases	763	771	842	761	931	959	988
Number of appellate attorneys	26.5	26.5	27.5	27.5	29.5	29.5	29.5
Annual appellate caseload per attorney	29	29	31	28	28	33	33
Number of post conviction defender cases	2,300	1,990	2,236	2,450	2,998	3,158	3,326
Number of post conviction defender attorneys	13.0	13.5	15.0	17.0	19.0	20.0	20.0
Annual post conviction defender caseload per attorney	177	147	149	144	157	158	166
Number of mental health cases	6,377	7,007	6,981	7,624	7,485	7,997	7,915
Number of mental health attorneys	7.5	8.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	7.5
Annual mental health caseload per attorney	850	824	931	1,017	985	1,026	1,055

- Obj. 1.4** Meet the Case Weighting Study standard for Circuit Court cases, by region, at no less than 50% of OPD district offices: urban - 156, suburban - 140, rural - 191.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	49,175	50,365	50,866	49,656	45,447	45,872	46,418
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	214	232	233	225	231	224	224

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	4,910	5,122	5,228	5,132	4,872	4,958	5,057
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	171	175	174	168	129	132	126
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	230	210	173	186	160	157	155
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	398	386	393	532	355	368	380
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	264	244	290	303	270	299	331
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	201	190	194	170	147	149	151
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	141	115	123	101	91	93	89
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	227	236	211	216	230	238	246
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	405	249	214	207	229	258	265
9 - Harford - rural (191)	243	227	283	252	239	197	203
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	185	182	222	238	214	222	231
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	290	230	269	264	267	267	267
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	156	143	199	187	191	223	262
¹ Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads met Case Weighting Study standards	17%	25%	17%	25%	33%	33%	25%

Obj. 1.5 Meet the Case Weighting Study standard for District Court cases, by region, at no less than 40 percent of OPD district offices: urban - 728, suburban - 705, rural - 630.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	154,097	160,968	152,868	152,676	137,256	140,938	145,099
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	149	167	162	171	156	167	167
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	7,875	8,307	8,298	8,513	7,109	7,235	7,379
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	954	949	707	614	543	504	467
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	696	1,024	1,051	873	1,021	907	932
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	872	810	681	600	482	442	439
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	1,103	1,336	1,140	889	1,076	1,196	1,329
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,695	1,483	1,333	1,228	1,728	1,334	1,404
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	1,573	1,102	1,289	1,489	1,069	1,031	1,071

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	1,049	1,112	1,216	1,262	1,193	1,390	1,484
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	974	965	845	857	750	658	675
9 - Harford - rural (630)	1,353	818	729	725	824	712	739
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	747	680	712	713	614	643	674
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	1,127	728	659	618	723	746	770
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	680	854	864	820	761	667	688
¹ Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	0%	0%	8%	25%	16%	25%	25%

Obj. 1.6 Meet the Case Weighting Study standard for Juvenile Court cases, by region, at no less than 75 percent of OPD district offices: urban - 182, suburban - 238, rural - 271.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	14,596	13,615	14,410	13,251	11,765	11,493	10,742
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	72	64	68	67	67	63	63
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	2,982	2,398	2,341	2,444	2,438	2,481	2,531
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	108	99	85	75	64	59	51
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	411	453	311	336	309	340	328
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	114	85	92	78	180	155	134
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	436	370	375	311	220	205	191
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	138	522	418	381	262	339	394
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	167	107	109	93	111	128	124
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	247	170	105	118	59	56	45
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	198	202	195	167	143	133	124
9 - Harford - rural (271)	172	167	128	145	75	120	97
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	193	266	295	264	168	105	98
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	283	265	484	484	285	207	201
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	372	178	171	163	153	362	342
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	58%	75%	58%	67%	75%	75%	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, where appropriate, litigate those cases in which further factual and scientific investigation may lead to exoneration.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of requests for assistance with an innocence claim	262	250	225	201	219	229	215
Number of cases accepted for investigation after review	21	37	113	56	48	55	52
Number of cases litigated	25	18	16	12	10	12	10
Number of clients exonerated or convictions vacated	1	2	2	1	1	2	2

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

Obj. 3.1 The Inmate Services Division will provide representation to individuals eligible to receive post conviction relief who request such services. Post conviction relief aims to achieve a variety of outcomes, including correcting/vacating a sentence, obtaining permission to file a late appeal, securing a new trial, etc.

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2011 Act.	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Est.	2017 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	941	908	989	1,097	2,998	3,420	3,901
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	13	27	47	86	21	30	35
Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	190	232	254	251	277	290	300

NOTES

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