

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)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of appellate cases	771	842	761	931	889	874	860
Number of appellate attorneys	26.5	27.5	27.5	29.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Annual appellate caseload per attorney	29	31	28	28	32	28	27
Number of post conviction defender cases	1,990	2,236	2,450	2,998	2,835	2,693	2,559
Number of post conviction defender attorneys	13.5	15.0	17.0	19.0	20.0	20.0	20.0
Annual post conviction defender caseload per attorney	147	149	144	157	142	134	127
Number of mental health cases	7,007	6,981	7,624	7,485	7,229	7,157	7,085
Number of mental health attorneys	8.5	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	8.0	8.0
Annual mental health caseload per attorney	824	931	1,017	985	904	853	844

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

Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	50,365	50,866	49,656	45,447	41,965	40,605	39,330
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	232	233	225	231	228	228	228

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	5,122	5,228	5,132	4,872	4,175	4,058	4,180
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	175	174	168	129	131	120	110
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	210	173	186	160	185	185	184
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	386	393	532	355	248	242	237
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	244	290	303	270	256	250	245
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	190	194	170	147	142	137	133
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	115	123	101	91	104	103	101
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	236	211	216	230	182	181	181
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	249	214	207	229	191	189	188
9 - Harford - rural (191)	227	283	252	239	184	178	172
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	182	222	238	214	181	187	183
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	230	269	264	267	226	221	217
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	143	199	187	191	174	174	174
¹ Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads met Case Weighting Study standards	25%	17%	25%	33%	58%	58%	58%

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)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	160,968	152,868	152,676	137,256	132,938	130,069	127,388
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	167	162	171	156	167	167	167
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	8,307	8,298	8,513	7,109	6,739	6,550	6,747
¹ <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	949	707	614	543	479	439	403
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	1,024	1,051	873	1,021	882	872	861
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	810	681	600	482	627	626	619
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	1,336	1,140	889	1,076	734	740	746
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,483	1,333	1,228	1,728	1,758	1,739	1,720
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	1,102	1,289	1,489	1,069	1,036	1,041	1,046

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	1,112	1,216	1,262	1,193	1,118	1,117	1,116
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	965	845	857	750	695	685	674
9 - Harford - rural (630)	818	729	725	824	608	603	599
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	680	712	713	614	629	598	569
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	728	659	618	723	618	619	620
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	854	864	820	761	627	609	591
¹ Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	0%	8%	25%	16%	58%	58%	58%

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)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	13,615	14,410	13,251	11,765	9,960	9,524	8,865
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	64	68	67	67	59	59	59
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	2,398	2,341	2,444	2,438	2,063	2,005	2,066
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	99	85	75	64	63	59	55
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	453	311	336	309	337	356	376
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	85	92	78	180	270	268	267
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	370	375	311	220	177	157	140
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	522	418	381	262	161	143	127
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	107	109	93	111	199	223	250
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	170	105	118	59	71	62	54
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	202	195	167	143	116	104	93
9 - Harford - rural (271)	167	128	145	75	287	312	338
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	266	295	264	168	215	201	188
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	265	484	484	285	192	174	159
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	178	171	163	153	142	255	228
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	75%	58%	67%	75%	92%	92%	92%

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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)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of requests for assistance with an innocence claim	250	225	201	219	141	150	170
Number of cases accepted for investigation after review	37	113	56	48	33	35	40
Number of cases litigated	18	16	12	10	8	7	7
Number of clients exonerated or convictions vacated	2	2	1	1	1	0	1

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)	2012 Act.	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Est.	2018 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	908	989	1,097	2,998	2,835	2,693	2,559
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	27	47	86	21	70	67	64
Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	232	254	251	277	260	241	233

NOTES

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