

# 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)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of appellate cases	842	761	931	889	857	866	874
Number of appellate attorneys	27.5	27.5	29.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
Annual appellate caseload per attorney	31	28	28	32	26	28	28
Number of post conviction defender cases	2,236	2,450	2,998	2,835	2,278	2,171	2,069
Number of post conviction defender attorneys	15	17	19	20	21	22	22
Annual post conviction defender caseload per attorney	149	144	157	142	104	95	90
Number of mental health cases	6,981	7,624	7,485	7,229	7,032	7,092	7,153
Number of mental health attorneys	7.5	7.5	7.5	8.0	9.0	10.0	10.0
Annual mental health caseload per attorney	931	1,017	985	904	781	700	706

- 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)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	50,866	49,656	45,447	41,965	40,132	38,456	36,933
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	233	225	231	228	221	222	222

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	5,228	5,132	4,872	4,175	4,287	4,120	3,969
<sup>1</sup> <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	174	168	129	131	135	122	110
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	173	186	160	185	177	183	189
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	393	532	355	248	248	254	259
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	290	303	270	256	242	205	189
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	194	170	147	142	123	117	110
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	123	101	91	104	94	92	89
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	211	216	230	182	187	189	191
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	214	207	229	191	181	173	166
9 - Harford - rural (191)	283	252	239	184	177	173	170
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	222	238	214	181	192	189	186
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	269	264	267	226	198	191	178
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	199	187	191	174	207	216	224
<sup>1</sup> Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads met Case Weighting Study standards	17%	25%	33%	58%	50%	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)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	152,868	152,676	137,256	132,938	128,422	126,321	124,445
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	162	171	156	167	162	166	168
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	8,298	8,513	7,109	6,739	7,386	7,288	7,203
<sup>1</sup> <i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	707	614	543	479	508	472	440
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	1,051	873	1,021	882	900	820	829
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	681	600	482	627	672	661	718
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	1,140	889	1,076	734	636	604	563
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,333	1,228	1,728	1,758	1,641	1,223	1,028
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	1,289	1,489	1,069	1,036	921	952	984

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Performance Measures (Calendar Year)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	1,216	1,262	1,193	1,118	1,003	989	976
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	845	857	750	695	772	793	814
9 - Harford - rural (630)	729	725	824	608	719	727	735
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	712	713	614	629	588	584	581
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	659	618	723	618	563	568	548
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	864	820	761	627	614	578	544
<sup>1</sup> Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	8%	25%	16%	58%	42%	42%	42%

**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)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	14,410	13,251	11,765	9,960	10,752	11,210	11,910
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	68	67	67	59	59	59	57
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	2,341	2,444	2,438	2,063	1,761	1,842	1,962
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	85	75	64	63	105	109	114
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	311	336	309	337	311	308	308
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	92	78	180	270	270	216	259
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	375	311	220	177	283	195	160
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	418	381	262	161	90	99	115
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	109	93	111	199	233	304	396
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	105	118	59	71	120	104	91
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	195	167	143	116	161	174	190
9 - Harford - rural (271)	128	145	75	287	349	454	590
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	295	264	168	215	206	220	228
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	484	484	285	192	294	180	160
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	171	163	153	142	286	127	113
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	58%	67%	75%	92%	58%	75%	75%

# Office of the Public Defender

## Goal 2. Inmate Services will provide superior, effective representation for public defender clients.

**Obj. 2.1** 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)	2013 Act.	2014 Act.	2015 Act.	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Est.	2019 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	989	1,097	2,998	2,835	2,278	2,087	2,069
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	47	86	21	70	100	70	75
<sup>2</sup> Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	254	251	277	260	N/A	225	200

### NOTES

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

<sup>2</sup> FY 2017 data not available at this time.