

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 and to ensure that our attorneys and staff have the knowledge, tools, training, and leadership 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*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
¹ Number of appellate cases	889	857	948	790	440	364	397
¹ Number of appellate attorneys	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5
¹ Annual appellate caseload per attorney	32	31	34	29	16	13	14
¹ Number of post conviction defender cases	2,835	2,278	2,230	1,888	1,106	1,427	1,936
¹ Number of post conviction defender attorneys	20	21	24	24	24	24	24
¹ Annual post conviction defender caseload per attorney	142	108	93	79	46	59	81
² Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	70	101	82	N/A	30	76	104
² Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	260	292	226	N/A	62	99	135
² Years of sentences reduced	N/A	277	424	N/A	558	600	650
² Number of life sentences reduced	N/A	7	1	N/A	6	10	15
² Number of inmates released during reporting period	N/A	N/A	57	N/A	19	25	30
Number of parole revocation cases opened	N/A	548	432	428	46	81	200
² Number of inmates released after parole revocation hearing	N/A	N/A	14	N/A	1	2	6
¹ Number of mental health cases	7,229	7,032	8,134	7,494	10,012	10,995	112,000
¹ Number of mental health attorneys	8.0	9.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
¹ Annual mental health caseload per attorney	904	781	739	681	910	1,000	10,182

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Obj. 1.4 Full time attorneys in the Parental Defense Division will handle no more than 173 cases annually, which is the Case Weighting Study standard for parental defense attorneys.

Performance Measures*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
¹ Number of Parental Defense cases	6,575	6,705	6,405	3,359	1,400	1,624	1,995
¹ Number of Parental Defense attorneys	29.0	29.0	30.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
¹ Annual average Parental Defense caseload per attorney	227	231	214	108	45	52	64

Obj. 1.5 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*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	41,965	40,132	41,484	39,201	20,795	24,025	30,709
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	228	221	223	220	190	190	190
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	4,175	4,287	5,357	6,879	2,285	2,640	3,103
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	131	135	157	156	73	89	110
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	185	177	188	192	138	153	171
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	248	248	243	273	222	242	265
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	256	242	179	109	81	82	84
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	142	123	111	79	69	66	67
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	104	94	73	80	110	136	172
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	182	187	173	176	93	119	159
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	191	181	184	142	97	123	164
9 - Harford - rural (191)	184	177	169	167	10	149	173
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	181	192	174	176	102	127	165
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	226	198	223	177	97	105	114
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	174	207	283	183	182	205	234
Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads met Case Weighting Study standards	58%	50%	50%	83%	92%	83%	58%

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Obj. 1.6 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*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	132,938	128,422	146,271	144,342	89,846	102,606	124,524
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	167	162	165	166	203	203	203
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	6,739	7,386	20,407	45,775	3,188	12,065	14,226
Number of cases paneled under the Workload Reduction Program	N/A	N/A	N/A	37,893	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	479	508	575	598	326	388	475
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	882	900	916	563	558	628	820
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	627	672	808	655	511	493	533
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	734	636	678	762	445	507	687
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,758	1,641	1,549	610	525	461	469
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	1,036	921	844	526	403	311	314
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	1,118	1,003	934	391	596	631	810
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	695	772	752	721	480	533	678
9 - Harford - rural (630)	608	719	727	656	320	400	519
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	629	588	560	502	244	287	345
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	618	563	644	656	461	455	506
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	627	614	559	476	288	313	342
¹ Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	58%	42%	25%	58%	100%	92%	75%

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Obj. 1.7 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*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	9,960	10,752	10,613	9,373	3,507	3,731	4,306
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	59	59	53	53	45	45	45
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	2,063	1,761	1,731	1,763	667	643	742
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	63	105	171	77	37	53	70
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	337	311	676	391	163	174	185
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	270	270	176	175	87	94	102
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	177	283	407	151	42	45	49
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	161	90	88	118	84	95	109
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	199	233	229	138	55	42	44
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	71	120	120	151	37	42	48
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	116	161	121	97	67	64	68
9 - Harford - rural (271)	287	349	267	187	84	87	91
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	215	206	174	156	128	92	95
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	192	294	317	238	55	57	58
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	142	286	129	105	75	105	133
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	92%	58%	75%	92%	100%	100%	100%

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*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	2,835	2,278	2,230	1,906	1,113	1,436	1,949
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	70	101	82	39	30	40	65
Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	260	292	222	N/A	62	70	125

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Goal 3. Provide superior, effective representation for public defender clients.

Obj. 3.1 Cultivate leadership and managerial excellence.

Obj. 3.2 Invest in core staff strengths.

Obj. 3.3 Enhance legal representation and attorney competence by establishing coaching and training curriculums.

Performance Measures*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
³ Number of candidates enrolled in the leadership academy	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of trained mentors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Percentage of core staff in compliance with established Continuing Legal Education (CLE) training	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Percentage of intake staff in compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Percentage of Secretarial staff in compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Percentage of Paralegal staff in compliance	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of Coaching Sessions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of Attendees completing coaching sessions	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of Training Curriculum Modules	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
³ Number of Attendees completing Training curriculum	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

OTHER PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Performance Measures*	2016 Act.	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Est.	2023 Est.
Number of panel attorneys used	433	417	379	394	315	350	375
Number of cases paneled (entire agency)	16,648	17,073	31,053	57,598	6,905	16,229	19,146

NOTES

* Due to a data breach and the implementation of a new system, starting in 2021 data is reported on a fiscal year basis. 2019 and prior is reported on a calendar year basis. A majority of cases from January 2020 through June 2020 were re-entered into the new case management system and are captured in the 2021 data.

¹ Beginning in 2019, the number of cases does not include panel cases.

² Due to data breach, data for 2019 is unavailable.

³ Data breach and pandemic required OPD to cancel coaching and staff training curriculums. Therefore CLE standards and compliance cannot be measured from 2021 - 2023.