

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
¹ Number of appellate cases	857	948	790	440	413	433	443
¹ Number of appellate attorneys	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	28.0	28.0	28.0
¹ Annual appellate caseload per attorney	31	34	29	16	15	15	16
¹ Number of post conviction defender cases	2,278	2,230	1,888	1,106	1,336	1,701	1,937
¹ Number of post conviction defender attorneys	21	24	24	24	24	24	24
¹ Annual post conviction defender caseload per attorney	108	93	79	46	56	71	81
² Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	101	82	N/A	30	71	74	86
² Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	292	226	N/A	62	43	100	150
² Years of sentences reduced	277	424	N/A	558	450	500	550
² Number of life sentences reduced	7	1	N/A	6	17	10	10
² Number of inmates released during reporting period	N/A	57	N/A	19	28	40	50
Number of parole revocation cases opened	548	432	428	46	416	450	475
² Number of inmates released after parole revocation hearing	N/A	14	N/A	1	N/A	17	20
¹ Number of mental health cases	7,032	8,134	7,494	10,012	10,590	11,440	11,908
¹ Number of mental health attorneys	9.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0	11.0
¹ Annual mental health caseload per attorney	781	739	681	910	963	1,040	1,083

Office of the Public Defender

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
¹ Number of Parental Defense cases	6,705	6,405	3,359	1,400	1,016	1,013	1,023
¹ Number of Parental Defense attorneys	29.0	30.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0	31.0
¹ Annual average Parental Defense caseload per attorney	231	214	108	45	33	33	33

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of Circuit Court cases (district operations)	40,132	41,484	39,201	20,795	20,765	23,444	26,353
Number of authorized Circuit Court attorneys (district operations)	221	223	220	190	188	188	188
Number of Circuit Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	4,287	5,357	6,879	2,285	3,389	3,700	3,960
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Circuit Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (156)	135	157	156	73	70	80	88
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (191)	177	188	192	138	119	123	124
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (191)	248	243	273	222	258	259	248
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (191)	242	179	109	81	60	62	64
5 - Prince George's - suburban (140)	123	111	79	69	69	71	72
6 - Montgomery - suburban (140)	94	73	80	110	64	65	65
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (140)	187	173	176	93	79	89	94
8 - Baltimore - suburban (140)	181	184	142	97	118	163	224
9 - Harford - rural (191)	177	169	167	10	83	79	87
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (191)	192	174	176	102	98	108	110
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (191)	198	223	177	97	77	75	69
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (191)	207	283	183	182	167	188	209
Percent of district offices where Circuit Court caseloads met Case Weighting Study standards	50%	50%	83%	92%	92%	83%	75%

Office of the Public Defender

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of District Court cases (district operations)	128,422	146,271	144,342	89,846	90,688	101,252	112,223
Number of authorized District Court attorneys (district operations)	162	165	166	203	215	215	215
Number of District Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	7,386	20,407	45,775	3,188	9,046	14,536	15,896
Number of cases paneled under the Workload Reduction Program	N/A	N/A	37,893	N/A	0	0	0
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in District Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (728)	508	575	598	326	245	269	282
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (630)	900	916	563	558	656	699	786
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (630)	672	808	655	511	357	314	293
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (630)	636	678	762	445	595	662	819
5 - Prince George's - suburban (705)	1,641	1,549	610	525	290	235	216
6 - Montgomery - suburban (705)	921	844	526	403	210	203	178
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (705)	1,003	934	391	596	589	636	721
8 - Baltimore - suburban (705)	772	752	721	480	798	942	1,216
9 - Harford - rural (630)	719	727	656	320	391	454	504
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (630)	588	560	502	244	248	298	355
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (630)	563	644	656	461	378	461	521
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (630)	614	559	476	288	279	280	268
¹ Percent of district offices where District Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	42%	25%	58%	100%	83%	75%	75%

Office of the Public Defender

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of Juvenile Court cases (district operations)	10,752	10,613	9,373	3,507	2,852	3,280	3,511
Number of authorized Juvenile Court attorneys (district operations)	59	53	53	45	33	33	33
Number of Juvenile Court cases paneled to private attorneys (district operations)	1,761	1,731	1,763	667	568	645	704
<i>Average Cases Per Attorney in Juvenile Court (standard in parenthesis)</i>							
1 - Baltimore City - urban (182)	105	171	77	37	44	53	51
2 - Wicomico, Worcester, Somerset, Dorchester - rural (271)	311	676	391	163	110	122	126
3 - Queen Anne, Caroline, Elkton, Kent, Talbot - rural (271)	270	176	175	87	136	120	102
4 - Charles, Calvert, St. Mary's - rural (271)	283	407	151	42	69	70	67
5 - Prince George's - suburban (238)	90	88	118	84	77	105	122
6 - Montgomery - suburban (238)	233	229	138	55	60	49	51
7 - Anne Arundel - suburban (238)	120	120	151	37	49	59	61
8 - Baltimore - suburban (238)	161	121	97	67	76	92	105
9 - Harford - rural (271)	349	267	187	84	100	92	87
10 - Howard, Carroll - rural (271)	206	174	156	128	90	146	180
11 - Frederick, Washington - rural (271)	294	317	238	55	93	106	113
12 - Allegany, Garrett - rural (271)	286	129	105	75	55	79	86
Percent of district offices where Juvenile Court caseloads meet Case Weighting Study standards	58%	75%	92%	100%	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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of post conviction cases opened	2,278	2,230	1,906	1,113	1,348	1,716	1,954
Number of motions to reopen post conviction cases	101	82	39	30	71	74	86
Number of cases in which post conviction relief was granted	292	222	N/A	62	43	100	150

Office of the Public Defender

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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 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*	2017 Act.	2018 Act.	2019 Act.	2021 Act.	2022 Act.	2023 Est.	2024 Est.
Number of panel attorneys used	417	379	394	315	378	375	375
Number of cases paneled (entire agency)	17,073	31,053	57,598	6,905	13,860	19,746	21,437

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 - 2024.