

Office of the Public Defender

Performance Indicators - March 2011

| | Frequency | Desired Trend | Prior Month | Current Month | % Change | 12 Month Average |
|---|-----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|----------|------------------|
| Providing Appropriate Effective Legal Counsel | | | | | | |
| Trial Services to Indigents | | | | | | |
| The Trial Division of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provides effective representation to indigent adult defendants charged with indictable offenses in the Criminal Division of Superior Court and indigent juveniles charged with delinquency in the Family Division of Superior Court. Pursuant to a 1990 Report of the Special Committee to assess Criminal Division needs, known as the "Pashman/Belsole" (P/B) report, the criminal justice system in New Jersey adheres to the P/B court staffing formula of requiring the OPD to assign 2 attorneys, 1 investigator and 1.25 clerical to each Superior Court judge statewide to insure a viable criminal justice system in New Jersey. | | | | | | |
| Number of Superior Court Judges | Monthly | Varies | 138 | 136 | -1.4% | 136 |
| Number of Public Defender Attorneys | Monthly | Increase | 255 | 253 | -0.8% | 220 |
| Number of Public Defender Investigators | Monthly | Increase | 81 | 82 | 1.2% | 73 |
| Number of Public Defender Clericals | Monthly | Increase | 133 | 130 | -2.3% | 140 |
| | | | | | | |
| Adult Criminal cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 4,737 | 5,465 | 15.4% | 4,964 |
| Adult Criminal cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 3,858 | 4,183 | 8.4% | 3,389 |
| | | | | | | |
| Juvenile Delinquency cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 1,006 | 1,271 | 26.3% | 1,115 |
| Juvenile Delinquency cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 693 | 892 | 28.7% | 777 |
| | | | | | | |
| Adult Average Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys) | Monthly | Decrease | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| Juvenile Average Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys) | Monthly | Decrease | NA | NA | NA | NA |
| | | | | | | |

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|---|---------|----------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| Appellate Services to Indigents | | | | | | |
| The Appellate Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation to indigent defendants on direct appeal of a criminal conviction or sentence in the Appellate Division of Superior Court. | | | | | | |
| Notices of New Appeals Filed * | Monthly | Varies | 117 | 174 | 48.7% | 131 |
| Number of Excessive Sentence Program Dispositions | Monthly | Varies | 61 | 39 | -36.1% | 63 |
| Number of Briefs filed | Monthly | Increase | 86 | 103 | 19.8% | 73 |
| Number of Dismissals / Administrative Closings | Monthly | Varies | 55 | 59 | 7.3% | 38 |
| Petitions for Certification to Supreme Court | Monthly | Varies | 34 | 74 | 117.6% | 49 |
| Post Conviction Relief cases - Open | Monthly | Varies | 57 | 89 | 56.1% | NA |
| Post Conviction Relief cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 71 | 87 | 22.5% | NA |
| | | | | | | |
| * - The number of notices of New Appeals Filed do not reflect those New Appeals waiting to be filed due to a clerical shortage. | | | | | | |

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| Office of Parental Representation | | | | | | |
|--|---------|----------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| The Parental Representation Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation to indigent parents charged with Civil Abuse and Neglect Complaints (Title 9 proceedings). | | | | | | |
| Indigent Parent cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 378 | 606 | 60.3% | 468 |
| Indigent Parent cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 442 | 393 | -11.1% | 239 |
| The Parental Representation Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation to indigent parents in Termination of Parental Rights (Title 30 proceedings). | | | | | | |
| Indigent Parent cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 111 | 129 | 16.2% | 98 |
| Indigent Parent cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 54 | 59 | 9.3% | 36 |
| Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys) | | | | | | |
| | Monthly | Decrease | 58 | 55 | -5.2% | 59 |

| Office of Law Guardian | | | | | | |
|---|---------|----------|-----|-----|--------|-----|
| The Law Guardian Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation to all children who are the subject of Civil Child Abuse and Neglect Complaints (Title 9 proceedings). | | | | | | |
| Children cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 523 | 875 | 67.3% | 568 |
| Children cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 689 | 545 | -20.9% | 641 |
| The Law Guardian Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation to all children in termination of parental rights proceeding (Title 30 proceedings). | | | | | | |
| Children cases - Opened | Monthly | Varies | 73 | 104 | 42.5% | 101 |
| Children cases - Closed | Monthly | Increase | 101 | 103 | 2.0% | 215 |
| Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys) | | | | | | |
| | Monthly | Decrease | 113 | 115 | 1.8% | 113 |

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| Mental Health Screening Services | | | | | | |
| The Mental Health Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation for those diagnosed with a mental illness in initial commitment, periodic review and placement hearings at federal, state, county, general and psychiatric hospitals | | | | | | |
| Number of persons with mental illness represented at commitment proceedings | Monthly | Varies | 648 | 814 | 25.6% | NA |
| Number of persons with mental illness represented during placement hearings | Monthly | Varies | 292 | 408 | 39.7% | NA |
| Number of persons represented at voluntary commitment hearings | Monthly | Varies | 74 | 86 | 16.2% | NA |
| Number of persons represented for other types of activities | Monthly | Varies | 156 | 123 | -21.2% | NA |
| The Mental Health Division of the Office of the Public Defender provides effective legal representation for the involuntary commitment of sexually violent offenders | | | | | | |
| Number of persons represented at involuntary commitment hearings | Monthly | Varies | 471 | 372 | -21.0% | NA |
| Providing Mediation Services | | | | | | |
| Office of Dispute Settlement | | | | | | |
| The Dispute Settlement Division of the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) provides effective mediation and conciliation services for those seeking dispute resolution | | | | | | |
| # of Foreclosure Mediation cases | Monthly | Varies | 115 | 116 | 0.9% | NA |
| # of Court Mediation cases | Monthly | Varies | 8 | 8 | 0.0% | NA |
| # of Underground Utility Act Arbitration cases | Monthly | Varies | 22 | 20 | -9.1% | NA |
| # of Residential Warranty Arbitrations cases | Monthly | Varies | 6 | 6 | 0.0% | NA |
| # of New Home Warranty Arbitrations cases | Monthly | Varies | 13 | 14 | 7.7% | NA |
| # of 2-10 Warranty Arbitration cases | Monthly | Varies | 3 | 4 | 33.3% | NA |