

Office of the Public Defender

Performance Indicators - May 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	136	136	0.0%	136
Number of Public Defender Attorneys	Monthly	Increase	252	252	0.0%	220
Number of Public Defender Investigators	Monthly	Increase	82	82	0.0%	73
Number of Public Defender Clericals	Monthly	Increase	130	130	0.0%	140
Adult Criminal cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	4,608	5,058	9.8%	4,937
Adult Criminal cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	3,425	3,385	-1.2%	3,199
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	1,019	1,084	6.4%	1,098
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	852	667	-21.7%	813
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

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	152	87	-42.8%	139
Number of Excessive Sentence Program Dispositions	Monthly	Varies	71	69	-2.8%	63
Number of Briefs filed	Monthly	Increase	86	72	-16.3%	73
Number of Dismissals / Administrative Closings	Monthly	Varies	51	109	113.7%	50
Petitions for Certification to Supreme Court	Monthly	Varies	48	44	-8.3%	48
Post Conviction Relief cases - Open	Monthly	Varies	62	64	3.2%	92
Post Conviction Relief cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	34	74	117.6%	51
* - 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	475	475	0.0%	466
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	547	446	-18.5%	282
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	86	90	4.7%	97
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	114	96	-15.8%	44
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	60	57	-5.0%	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	530	491	-7.4%	564
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	433	433	0.0%	637
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	91	95	4.4%	101
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	115	134	16.5%	220
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	113	109	-3.5%	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	816	763	-6.5%	NA
Number of persons with mental illness represented during placement hearings	Monthly	Varies	398	305	-23.4%	NA
Number of persons represented at voluntary commitment hearings	Monthly	Varies	88	64	-27.3%	NA
Number of persons represented for other types of activities	Monthly	Varies	84	94	11.9%	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	472	474	0.4%	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	119	120	0.8%	NA
# of Court Mediation cases	Monthly	Varies	8	9	12.5%	NA
# of Underground Utility Act Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies	21	22	4.8%	NA
# of Residential Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies	6	6	0.0%	NA
# of New Home Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies	10	10	0.0%	NA
# of 2-10 Warranty Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies	4	4	0.0%	NA