

Office of the Public Defender

Performance Indicators - January 2010

	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	138	0.0%	136
Number of Public Defender Attorneys	Monthly	Increase	246	257	4.5%	220
Number of Public Defender Investigators	Monthly	Increase	82	81	-1.2%	73
Number of Public Defender Clericals	Monthly	Increase	137	133	-2.9%	140
Adult Criminal cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	4,258	4,341	1.9%	4,912
Adult Criminal cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	3,036	3,532	16.3%	3,479
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	1,009	995	-1.4%	1,114
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	513	780	52.0%	834
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	105	130	23.8%	132
Number of Excessive Sentence Program Dispositions	Monthly	Varies	40	68	70.0%	63
Number of Briefs filed	Monthly	Increase	60	68	13.3%	72
Number of Dismissals / Administrative Closings	Monthly	Varies	51	31	-39.2%	41
Petitions for Certification to Supreme Court	Monthly	Varies	32	39	21.9%	47
Post Conviction Relief cases - Open	Monthly	Varies	63	75	19.0%	NA
Post Conviction Relief cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	32	23	-28.1%	NA
* - The number of notices of New Appeals Filed do not reflect those New Appeals waiting to be filed due to a clerical shortage.						

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	424	499	17.7%	470
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	311	297	-4.5%	234
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	89	81	-9.0%	97
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	47	40	-14.9%	39
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)	Monthly	Decrease	59	60	1.7%	NA

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	480	454	-5.4%	546
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	540	528	-2.2%	621
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	108	93	-13.9%	104
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	84	106	26.2%	221
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)	Monthly	Decrease	113	116	2.7%	115

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	730	694	-4.9%	NA
Number of persons with mental illness represented during placement hearings	Monthly	Varies	270	365	35.2%	NA
Number of persons represented at voluntary commitment hearings	Monthly	Varies	70	94	34.3%	NA
Number of persons represented for other types of activities	Monthly	Varies	91	88	-3.3%	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	465	469	0.9%	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	110	113	2.7%	NA
# of Court Mediation cases	Monthly	Varies	6	7	16.7%	NA
# of Underground Utility Act Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies	21	21	0.0%	NA
# of Residential Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies	6	6	0.0%	NA
# of New Home Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies	13	13	0.0%	NA
# of 2-10 Warranty Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies	3	3	0.0%	NA