

Office of the Public Defender
Performance Indicators - February 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	138	0.0%	136
Number of Public Defender Attorneys	Monthly	Increase	257	255	-0.8%	220
Number of Public Defender Investigators	Monthly	Increase	81	81	0.0%	73
Number of Public Defender Clericals	Monthly	Increase	133	133	0.0%	140
Adult Criminal cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	4,341	4,737	9.1%	4,982
Adult Criminal cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	3,532	3,858	9.2%	3,477
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies	995	1,006	1.1%	1,120
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	780	693	-11.2%	806
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	130	117	-10.0%	131
Number of Excessive Sentence Program Dispositions	Monthly	Varies	68	61	-10.3%	63
Number of Briefs filed	Monthly	Increase	68	86	26.5%	73
Number of Dismissals / Administrative Closings	Monthly	Varies	31	55	77.4%	38
Petitions for Certification to Supreme Court	Monthly	Varies	41	34	-17.1%	49
Post Conviction Relief cases - Open	Monthly	Varies	75	57	-24.0%	NA
Post Conviction Relief cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	23	71	208.7%	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	499	378	-24.2%	467
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	297	442	48.8%	241
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	81	111	37.0%	99
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	40	54	35.0%	39
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	62	58	-6.5%	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	454	523	15.2%	549
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	528	689	30.5%	647
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	93	73	-21.5%	103
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	106	101	-4.7%	223
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	116	113	-2.6%	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	694	684	-1.4%	NA
Number of persons with mental illness represented during placement hearings	Monthly	Varies	365	292	-20.0%	NA
Number of persons represented at voluntary commitment hearings	Monthly	Varies	94	74	-21.3%	NA
Number of persons represented for other types of activities	Monthly	Varies	88	156	77.3%	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	469	471	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	113	115	1.8%	NA
# of Court Mediation cases	Monthly	Varies	7	8	14.3%	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	13	13	0.0%	NA
# of 2-10 Warranty Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies	3	3	0.0%	NA