

Office of the Public Defender
Performance Indicators - December 2010

	Frequency	Desired Trend	Target	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							
Number of Superior Court Judges	Monthly	Varies		136	138	1.5%	136
Number of Public Defender Attorneys	Monthly	Increase		246	246	0.0%	220
Number of Public Defender Investigators	Monthly	Increase		82	82	0.0%	73
Number of Public Defender Clericals	Monthly	Increase		135	137	1.5%	140
Adult Criminal cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies		4,379	4,258	-2.8%	4,941
Adult Criminal cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase		1,681	3,036	80.6%	3,909
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Opened	Monthly	Varies		949	1,009	6.3%	1,144
Juvenile Delinquency cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase		350	513	46.6%	925
Adult Average Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)	Monthly	Decrease		190	189	-0.6%	NA
Juvenile Average Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)	Monthly	Decrease		198	205	3.5%	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		126	105	-16.7%	131
Number of Excessive Sentence Program Dispositions	Monthly	Varies		50	50	0.0%	62
Number of Briefs filed	Monthly	Increase		77	60	-22.1%	71
Number of Dismissals / Administrative Closings	Monthly	Varies		51	51	0.0%	38
Petitions for Certification to Supreme Court	Monthly	Varies		31	32	3.2%	47
Post Conviction Relief cases - Open	Monthly	Varies		63	73	15.9%	68
Post Conviction Relief cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase		32	23	-28.1%	49
* - 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	457	424	-7.2%	466
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	38	311	718.4%	302
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	112	89	-20.5%	100
Indigent Parent cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	5	47	840.0%	53
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	NA	59	NA	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	463	480	3.7%	528
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	521	540	3.6%	558
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	81	75	-7.4%	107
Children cases - Closed	Monthly	Increase	53	23	-56.6%	222
Combined Attorney Caseload (includes per diem attorneys)						
	Monthly	Decrease	111	113	1.8%	115

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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		857	730	-14.8%	NA
Number of persons with mental illness represented during placement hearings	Monthly	Varies		264	270	2.3%	NA
Number of persons represented at voluntary commitment hearings	Monthly	Varies		73	70	-4.1%	NA
Number of persons represented for other types of activities	Monthly	Varies		70	91	30.0%	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		457	465	1.8%	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		105	110	4.8%	NA
# of Court Mediation cases	Monthly	Varies		5	6	20.0%	NA
# of Underground Utility Act Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies		21	21	0.0%	NA
# of Residential Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies		5	6	20.0%	NA
# of New Home Warranty Arbitrations cases	Monthly	Varies		13	13	0.0%	NA
# of 2-10 Warranty Arbitration cases	Monthly	Varies		6	3	-50.0%	NA