Performance Plan

July 01, 2023



Office of the State Public Defender

MEGAN A. RING Colorado State Public Defender

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<u>Mission</u>

The mission of the Office of the State Public Defender is to defend and protect the rights, liberties, and dignity of those accused of crimes who cannot afford to retain counsel. We do so by providing constitutionally and statutorily mandated representation that is effective, zealous, inspired and compassionate.

<u>Vision</u>

It is the vision of the Office of the State Public Defender that every OSPD client served receives excellent legal representation though the delivery of high-quality legal services and compassionate support from a team of dedicated Public Defenders.

Statutory Authority

Statutory authority and Constitutional Authority form the basis of Office of State Public Defender's work.

C.R.S. § 21-1-101(1) demonstrates the need for the public defender to be **independent of political considerations, provide legal services to indigent people**, and states in part:

"The general assembly hereby declares that the state public defender at all times shall serve his clients independently of any political considerations or private interest, provide legal services to indigent persons accused of crime that are commensurate with those available to nonindigents, and conduct the office in accordance with the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct and with the American Bar Association standards relating to the administration of criminal justice, the defense function."

C.R.S. § 21-1-103 mandates that the state public defender shall represent each indigent person who is arrested for or charged with a felony, a misdemeanor when the charged offense includes a possible jail sentence, juveniles upon who a delinquency petition is filed or who are restrained by court order, process, or otherwise, person who are held in any institution against their for treatment of disease or disorder (meaning people who have been found not guilty by reason of insanity) when the person applies for a public defender or when appointed by the court.

<u>History</u>

In 1963, the United States Supreme Court decided *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 335 (1963), ensuring the indigent accused the right to representation of counsel in criminal cases. That same year, the Colorado General Assembly passed the Colorado Defender Act in response to the *Gideon* decision. This Act authorized Colorado counties to either establish a public defender office or remain under the previous ad hoc system of appointing counsel for indigent citizens accused of criminal offenses. Four county public defender offices were established under the Act in Denver, Brighton, Pueblo and Durango.

In 1969, the State Legislature passed the Administrative Reorganization Act. Pursuant to this act, the State began to oversee the court system, which assumed responsibility for the appointment and funding of counsel for indigent people. The Office of the State Public Defender was created by statute and became an independent state agency in 1970.

Description

The Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD) devotes itself to providing effective criminal defense representation to indigent persons charged with crimes. Our clients are people who, faced with the possibility of incarceration, are unable to afford private counsel and without counsel would otherwise be denied their constitutional right to representation throughout the criminal proceedings. Attorneys, investigators, social workers, paralegals and legal support staff are necessary to provide effective representation of counsel as mandated by the federal and state constitutions, Colorado Revised Statutes, Colorado Court Rules, American Bar Association standards, and the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. The OSPD system is the most efficient means of meeting these requirements.

The OSPD is an independent agency within the Judicial Branch of Colorado state government. Judges appoint the OSPD when a client qualifies for public defender services pursuant to statute, applicable case law and Chief Justice Directives. Megan A. Ring is the current Colorado State Public Defender and was appointed in 2018.

OSPD represents clients handling cases at the trial court level and the appellate court level. The OSPD maintains 21 regional trial offices which cover Colorado's 22 judicial districts and 64 counties. The OSPD appellate office handles statewide indigent criminal cases heard at the Court of Appeals and the Supreme Court. The staff in these offices are entirely devoted to representing clients in cases as assigned by the courts. System-wide administrative and support functions for these offices are handled centrally through the State Administrative Office in Denver.

The State Administrative Office houses the leadership team for the system. OSPD's mission and performance expectations are guided and monitored by this leadership team. The office coordinates all support functions to assist our regional trial offices and the Appellate Division in providing competent and zealous legal services to our clients. The administrative functions delivered by the administrative office include:

- Program direction, analysis and planning, including statistical compilation and development.
- Workforce development, training personnel, policy, compensation analysis, and practice development.
- Providing guidance to trial office teams in complex cases, and statewide litigation strategies.
- Facilitating and fostering a culture of DEIB in all offices throughout the state.
- Providing and identifying resources to support employees in enhancing long-term sustainability and job satisfaction.
- Payroll and benefits coordination and administration.
- Legislative affairs and statutory analysis.

- Intergovernmental and intragovernmental affairs.
- Budget analysis, development, allocation and management.
- Financial management analysis tracking, transaction processing, procurement and accounting.
- Facilities, planning development and lease negotiation.
- Contracts and grants management.
- IT support and development.
- Development, distribution and maintenance of the agency's computer information and telecommunications systems.
- Human Resources.

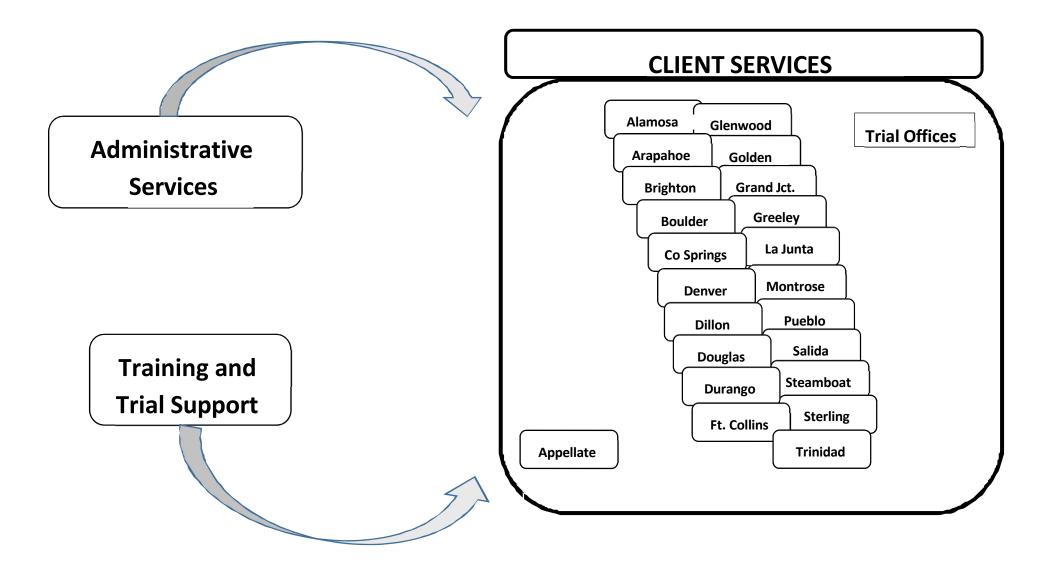
To support the OSPD in the representation of their FY 2023-24 projected caseload, the OSPD was appropriated \$155,572,694 and approximately 1098 FTE. This is comprised of approximately 577 attorneys; 167 investigators, 110 paralegals; 23 social workers; 154 administrative assistants and 67 centralized management and support positions.

Constitutional. Statutory and Other Authority

Constitutional, statutory and other authority for the OSPD system and its work is established pursuant to:

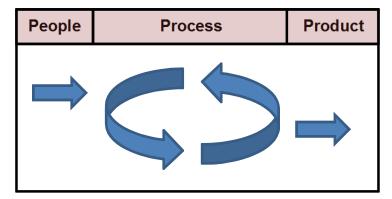
- U.S. Const. amend. VI;
- Colo. Const. art. II, §16;
- C.R.S. §§ 21-1-101 to 21-1-107;
- Chief Justice Directive 04-04;
- ABA Criminal Justice Standards;
- Colo. Rules of Professional Conduct (Colo. RPC);
- Gideon v. Wainwright, 372 U.S. 335 (1963);
- Alabama v. Shelton, 535 U.S. 654 (2002);
- Rothgery v. Gillespie County, 554 U.S. 191 (2008);
- Nikander v. District Court, 711 P.2d 1260 (Colo. 1986);
- Allen v. People, 157 Colo. 582, 404 P.2d 266 (1965);
- In Re Gault, 387 U.S. 1 (1967); and
- Powell v. Alabama, 287 U.S. 45 (1932).

COLORADO STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



Goals, Strategies and Measures

In order to achieve our mission of providing high-quality, effective criminal defense representation for each of our clients, the OSPD ensures that our goals, strategies and measures support our people, our process and the end product of client representation.



To this end, we have developed three overarching goals, five strategies and nineteen measures, all focused on improving service to our clients. We continue to analyze and further refine the concepts included in this document throughout the year using a variety of methods.

Our goals, strategies and measures all tie directly to our vision and our mission. Furthermore, as part of our organizational infrastructure planning, these components are continually reviewed and further refined.

Goals:

- 1. Provide effective attorney services and advocacy in both the trial and appellate courts throughout the state of Colorado for indigent clients.
- 2. Hire and retain a sufficient number of quality staff to effectively manage the ever- increasing workload in each office in the state.
- 3. Provide a high quality and quantity of staff development, training, technology support and other resources to adapt our response to the constantly changing criminal legal system so that our advocacy and legal services are commensurate with those available for non-indigent persons as is required by our statute.

Strategies:

- 4. Hire a sufficient number of high quality staff and retain an adequate level of experienced staff in order to effectively manage the assigned caseload.
- 5. Track and analyze trends in caseloads and adjust staffing levels.
- 6. Provide training to address the changing legal climate.
- 7. Continually evaluate administrative processes and organizational infrastructure needs such as office space, technology and staffing.
- 8. Work all cases as efficiently as possible, while retaining a high quality of effective and reasonable representation.

Measures:

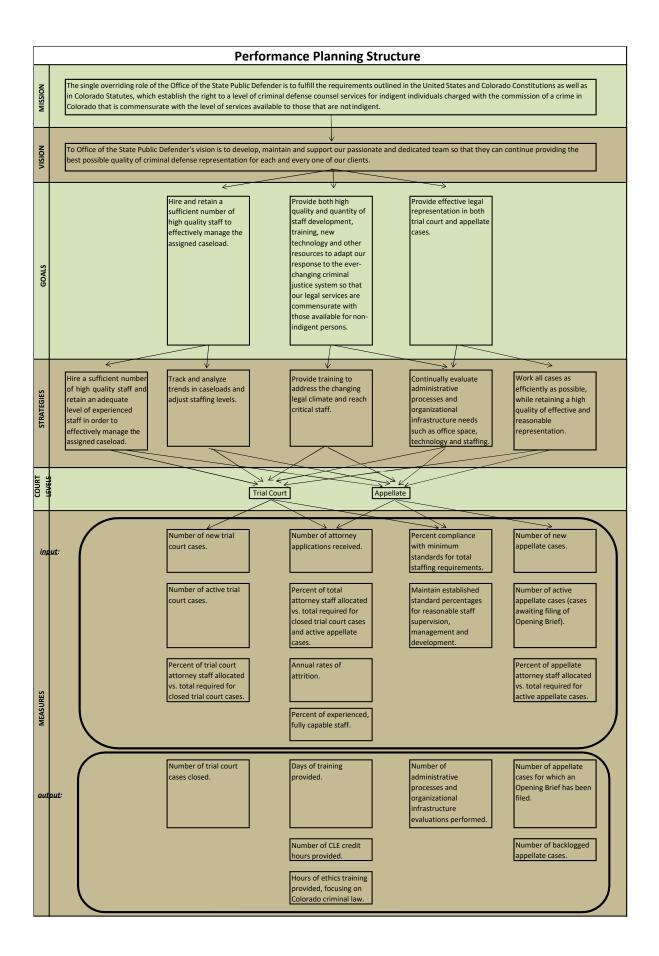
<u>Input</u>

- 1. Number of new trial court cases.
- 2. Number of active trial court cases.
- 3. Percent of trial court attorney staff allocated vs. total required for closed trial court cases.
- 4. Number of attorney applications received.
- 5. Percent of total attorney staff allocated versus total required for closed trial court cases and active appellate cases.
- 6. Annual rates of attrition.
- 7. Percent of experienced, fully capable staff.
- 8. Percent compliance with minimum standards for total staffing requirements.
- 9. Established standard percentages for reasonable staff supervision, management and development.
- 10. Number of new appellate cases.
- 11. Number of active appellate cases (cases awaiting filing of Opening Brief).
- 12. Percent of appellate attorney staff allocated vs. total required for active appellate cases.

<u>Output</u>

- 13. Number of trial court cases closed.
- 14. Days of training provided.
- 15. Number of CLE credit hours provided.
- 16. Ethics training hours provided, focus on Colorado criminal law.
- 17. Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed.
- 18. Number of appellate cases for which an Opening Brief has been filed.
- 19. Number of backlogged appellate cases.

To see a pictorial representation of the relationships among our mission, vision, goals, strategies and measures, see *Performance Planning Structure* on page 9.

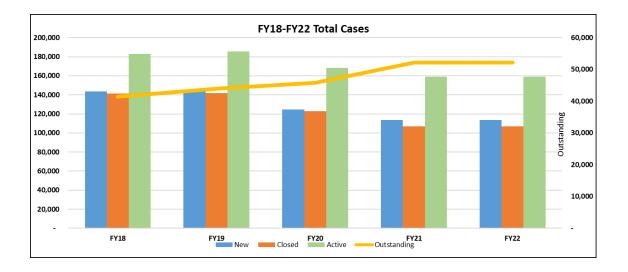


Performance Evaluation

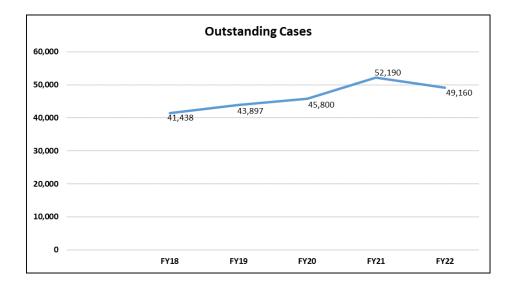
REGIONAL TRIAL OFFICE CASELOAD

OVERALL OSPD CASE TRENDS

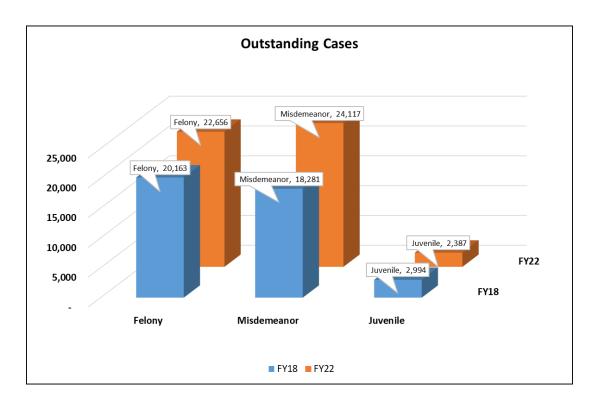
Total Cases. The Office of the State Public Defender tracks and monitors its caseload in four distinct categories: new, closed, active, and outstanding cases. In FY 2021-22, the OSPD actively worked on 179,581 cases. Active caseload incorporates all cases in which the OSPD is actively representing clients in a given year: the total new cases, plus the remaining unfinished cases from prior years and therefore carried forward into the current year. In FY 2021-2022, the OSPD was appointed on 127,391 new cases, closed 130,421 cases and at the end of the fiscal year, the OSPD had 49,160 outstanding cases.



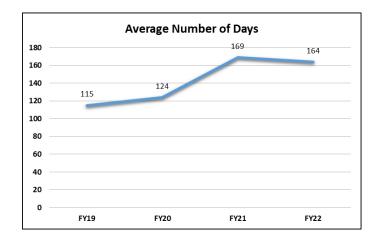
Outstanding Cases. As the chart above shows, in the first two years, as the number of new cases increased, there was a corresponding increase in the outstanding cases trend line which is to be expected. Between FY 2016-17 and FY 2020-21, the number of outstanding cases had increased 32 percent from 39,551 to 52,190 cases. In FY 2021-22, the number of outstanding cases slightly decreased to 49,160 cases as the OSPD was able to process cases that had been delayed due to the pandemic.



The predominant increase in outstanding cases is in felony and misdemeanor cases, which accounts for 95% of our total cases and is shown in the chart below.



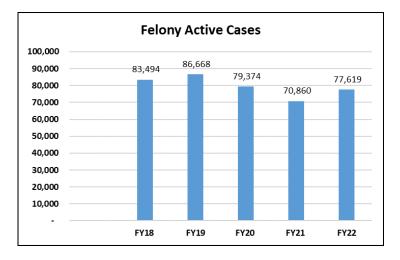
The chart below shows the OSPD experienced a dramatic 48 percent <u>increase</u> in the average days needed to close a case in FY 2020-21 when compared to FY 2018-19. In FY 2021-22, we have seen a slight decrease of 5 days in this average number of days, yet it is still 42 percent higher than four years ago.



CASE TYPES

Felony Cases. Through FY 2018-19, the OSPD had experienced significant increases each year in active felony cases reaching 86,668 cases, which was over a 50 percent increase since FY 2011-12. In FY 2019-20 the number of cases dropped to 79,374 and, by the end of FY 2020-21, the OSPD had 70,860 active felony cases. Felony cases in FY2021-22 are rebounding in a significant way with an increase of 9.5 percent from FY2020-21 to 77,619 cases.

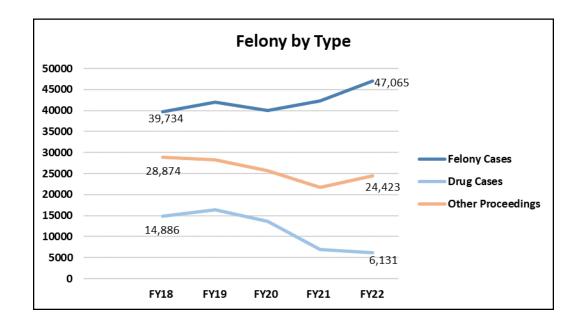
Although felony cases make up approximately 43 percent of our trial cases, they require 66 percent of our trial FTE resources.



While it appears felony cases were on the downturn in FY 2020-21, this decrease is somewhat misleading and is likely the result of a couple of changes. First, in March 2020, House Bill 19-1263, took effect and reduced the classification of possession drug charges. As a result, cases historically charged as a drug felony (DF4) are now charged as misdemeanors. However, that change does not include possession of synthetic opiates, which is now a felony in most instances due to the passage of House Bill 22-1326. Second, the number of Other Proceedings handled by OSPD, which consists largely of revocations, had declined as well. The drop in jail admissions and reduced in-person probation activities that occurred during the pandemic, as well as fewer technical violations being pursued, had contributed to a drop in revocation numbers across the state.

After taking into account the above changes and analyzing the remaining cases, the reality is that certain felony cases continue to increase. Specifically, many OSPD offices have experienced a significant increase in the number of higher level felony cases since FY18, including a 33.8 percent

increase in class 1 felonies, which carry a mandatory life sentence upon conviction, and a 22.5 percent increase in class 2 felonies, which also typically carry significant mandatory prison sentences. In addition, the number of class 5-6 felonies has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. Since FY18, the OSPD has experienced a nearly 18.5 percent increase in active felony cases, increasing from 39,734 to 47,065 cases this past year. This increase in felony cases puts a greater strain on OSPD resources because the most serious cases require more work by experienced employees, specially trained staff members, and outside forensic experts contracted by OSPD.

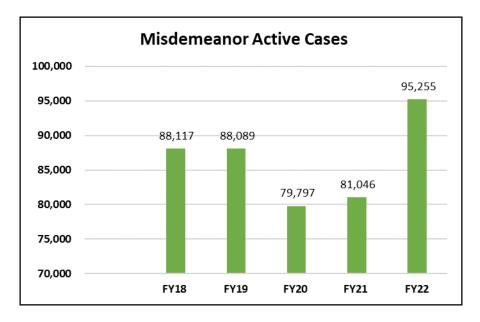


Fe	Felony - Active Cases									
FY18-FY22										
CASE TYPE FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY										
Felony 1	325	360	368	381	435					
Felony 2	586	515	527	649	718					
Sex Assault Felony 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	2,744	2,863	2,762	2,720	2,462					
Felony 3 or 4 (COV)	5,224	5,372	5,119	5,509	5,421					
Felony 3 or 4 (non-COV)	12,304	13,111	12,603	12,339	13,447					
Felony 5 or 6	17,386	18,600	17,533	19,603	23,462					
DUI Felony 4	1,165	1,172	1,115	1,111	1,120					
subttl without Drug cases	39,734	41,993	40,027	42,312	47,065					
Drug Felony 1, 2, 3 or 4	14,886	16,327	13,591	6,862	6,131					
Felony Cases	54,620	58,320	53,618	49,174	53,196					
Misc. Proceedings	6,884	6,745	6,092	4,447	4,135					
Revocations	21,937	21,539	19,592	17,168	20,211					
Appeals	53	64	72	71	77					
Felony Other Proceedings	28,874	28,348	25,756	21,686	24,423					
Total Felony	83,494	86,668	79,374	70,860	77,619					

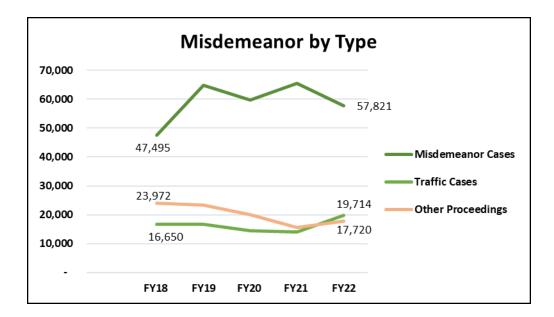
Misdemeanor Cases. In FY 2018-19, misdemeanor caseloads seemed to have stabilized with the OSPD handling 88,089 cases. Caseloads were consistent through the first eight months of FY 2019-20 but dropped in the final 3 months of the fiscal year resulting in 79,797 active cases in FY 2019-20. In FY 2020-21, the OSPD had 81,046 active misdemeanor cases, a slight increase over the previous year. In FY 2021-22, misdemeanor cases have surpassed pre-pandemic levels, totaling 95,255

cases. This increase is in part due to the changes in legislation impacting drug felony (DF4) cases as well as a significant increase in the number of traffic cases.

Misdemeanor cases represent about 53 percent of our total cases and require about 30 percent of our trial FTE resources.

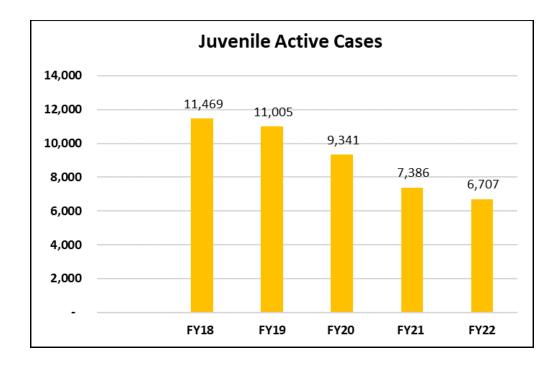


As discussed in the felony section above, House Bill 19-1263 changed the classification of possession drug charges (DF4) from a felony to a misdemeanor and that change has impacted the number of active misdemeanor cases. When separating out the Traffic and Other Proceedings cases, the remaining higher level misdemeanor cases have increased from 47,495 cases in FY 2017-18 to 57,821 cases this past year, a 21.7 percent increase. The chart below shows this change.

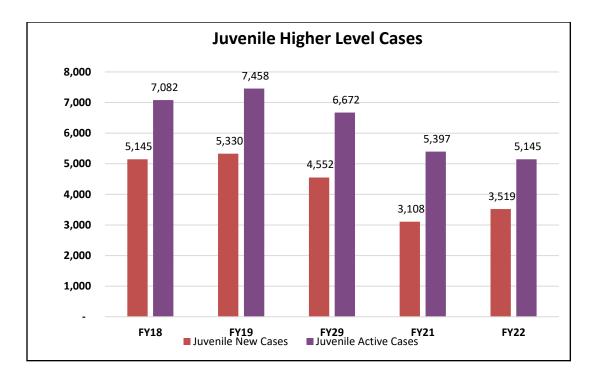


Misdemeanor - Active Cases										
FY18-FY22										
FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22										
	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active					
CASE TYPE	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases	Cases					
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	1,053	1,008	1,025	988	962					
Misdemeanor 1	20,663	20,979	20,259	25,180	27,413					
Misdemeanor 2 or 3	16,366	17,035	15,613	16,657	21,831					
Misdemeanor DUI	9,413	9,083	8,490	8,613	7,615					
subttl without Traffic/Other	47,495	48,105	45,387	51,438	57,821					
Misdemeanor Traffic/Other	16,650	16,719	14,445	14,080	19,714					
Misdemeanor Cases	64,145	64,824	59,832	65,518	77,535					
Misc. Proceedings	4,057	3,579	3,300	1,832	1,572					
Revocations	19,502	19,267	16,283	13,429	15,955					
Appeals	413	419	382	267	193					
Misdemeanor Other Proceedings	23,972	23,265	19,965	15,528	17,720					
Total Misdemeanor	88,117	88,089	79,797	81,046	95,255					

Juvenile Cases. Through FY 2017-18, the OSPD had experienced an increase in its juvenile caseload, due to legislation. House Bill 14-1032 requires the OSPD to be present at detention hearings, allows the court to appoint the OSPD when the parents refuse to provide counsel, allows the court to appoint the OSPD when the court deems it to be in the best interest of the child, and intentionally makes it more difficult for juveniles to waive counsel. The number of active juvenile cases peaked at 11,469 in FY 2017-18 and has since been decreasing down to 6,707 in FY 2021-22.



However, we expect this downward trend to turnaround as the OSPD experienced a slight increase in the number of its new higher level juvenile cases going from 3,108 cases in FY 2020-21 to 3,519 cases in FY 2021-22.



Juvenile cases represent about 4 percent of our total cases and require about 4 percent of our trial FTE resources.

OSPD Trial Office - Outstanding Cases										
FY18-FY22										
	5748 0/6					FY22 % O/S				
CASE TYPE	FY18 O/S	FY19 O/S	FY20 O/S	FY21 O/S	FY22 O/S	Cases				
Felony 1	181	179	190	231	232	0.5%				
Felony 2	184	188	237	299	305	0.6%				
Sex Assault Felony 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	1,036	1,130	1,110	1,211	725	1.5%				
Felony 3 or 4 (COV)	1,643	1,719 3,461	1,832	2,172	1,143	2.3%				
Felony 3 or 4 (non-COV)	3,307	,	3,844	4,381	5,337	10.9%				
Felony 5 or 6	4,649 374	4,658 412	5,127 453	6,869 460	6,679 416	13.6% 0.8%				
DUI Felony 4 Drug Felony 1, 2, 3 or 4	3,377	3,734	2,865	1,969	1,771	0.8% 3.6%				
Felony Cases	14,751	5,734 15,481	2,000 15,658	1,969 17,592	1,771 16,608	3.6% 33.8%				
Misc. Proceedings	1,473	1,517	1,297	1,169	986	<u>33.0%</u> 2.0%				
Revocations	3,920	4,060	4,440	5,108	986 5,039	<u>2.0%</u> 10.3%				
Appeals	<u> </u>	4,000	4,440	34	23	0.0%				
Felony Other Proceedings	5,412	5,607	5,764	6,311	6,048	12.3%				
Total Felony	20,163	21,088	21,422	23,903	22,656	46.1%				
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	150	362	389	423	227	0.5%				
Misdemeanor 1	4,734	5,174	6,031	8,164	6,348	12.9%				
Misdemeanor 2 or 3	3,279	3,685	4,116	5,115	5,527	11.2%				
Misdemeanor DUI	2,575	2,675	2,971	3,364	1,864	3.8%				
Misdemeanor Traffic/Other	3,546	3,990	3,825	5,066	6,338	12.9%				
Misdemeanor Cases	14,284	15,886	17,332	22,132	20,304	41.3%				
Misc. Proceedings	946	797	689	324	232	0.5%				
Revocations	2,844	3,053	3,305	3,638	3,494	7.1%				
Appeals	207	213	183	100	87	0.2%				
Misdemeanor Other Proceedings	3,997	4,063	4,177	4,062	3,813	7.8%				
Total Misdemeanor	18,281	19,949	21,509	26,194	24,117	49.1%				
Juvenile Sex Offense	145	239	249	217	209	0.4%				
Juvenile Felony	948	868	993	718	854	1.7%				
Juvenile Misdemeanor	1,024	1,001	1,046	691	911	1.9%				
Juvenile Cases	2,117	2,108	2,288	1,626	1,974	4.0%				
Misc. Proceedings	278	210	96	65	56	0.1%				
Revocations	576	534	481	396	352	0.7%				
Appeals	23	8	4	6	5	0.0%				
Juvenile Other Proceedings	877	752	581	467	413	0.8%				
Total Juvenile	2,994	2,860	2,869	2,093	2,387	4.9%				
Summary										
Total Cases	31,152	33,475	35,278	41,350	38,886	79.1%				
Total Misc. Proceedings	2,697	2,524	2,082	1,558	1,274	2.6%				
Total Revocations	7,340	7,647	8,226	9,142	8,885	18.1%				
Total Appeals	249	251	214	140	115	0.2%				
Total Other Proceedings	10,286	10,422	10,522	10,840	10,274	20.9%				
	-,•	-,	-,	-,	-,					
Grand Total Outstanding Cases	41,438	43,897	45,800	52,190	49,160	100.0%				

OSPD Trial Office - Active Cases										
FY18-FY22										
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22 %				
CASE TYPE										
	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active	Active				
Felony 1	325	360	368	381	435	0.2%				
Felony 2	586	515	527	649	718	0.4%				
Sex Assault Felony 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 Felony 3 or 4 (COV)	2,744 5,224	2,863 5,372	2,762 5,119	2,720 5,509	2,462 5,421	<u>1.4%</u> 3.0%				
Felony 3 of 4 (COV)	5,224 12,304	5,372 13,111	12,603	12,339	13,447	<u>3.0%</u> 7.5%				
Felony 5 or 6	12,304	18,600	12,603	12,339	23,462	13.1%				
DUI Felony 4	1,165	1,172	1,115	1,111	1,120	0.6%				
Drug Felony 1, 2, 3 or 4	14,886	16,327	13,591	6,862	6,131	3.4%				
Felony Cases	54,620	58,320	53,618	49,174	53,196	29.6%				
Misc. Proceedings	6,884	6,745	6,092	4,447	4,135	2.3%				
Revocations	21,937	21,539	19,592	17,168	20,211	11.3%				
Appeals	53	64	72	71	77	0.0%				
Felony Other Proceedings	28,874	28,348	25,756	21,686	24,423	13.6%				
Total Felony	83,494	86,668	79,374	70,860	77,619	43.2%				
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	1,053	1,008	1,025	988	962	0.5%				
Misdemeanor 1	20,663	20,979	20,259	25,180	27,413	15.3%				
Misdemeanor 2 or 3	16,366	17,035	15,613	16,657	21,831	12.2%				
Misdemeanor DUI	9,413	9,083	8,490	8,613	7,615	4.2%				
Misdemeanor Traffic/Other	16,650	16,719	14,445	14,080	19,714	11.0%				
Misdemeanor Cases	64,145	64,824	59,832	65,518	77,535	43.2%				
Misc. Proceedings	4,057	3,579	3,300	1,832	1,572	0.9%				
Revocations	19,502	19,267	16,283	13,429	15,955	8.9%				
Appeals	413	419	382	267	193	0.1%				
Misdemeanor Other Proceedings	23,972	23,265	19,965	15,528	17,720	9.9%				
Total Misdemeanor	88,117	88,089	79,797	81,046	95,255	53.0%				
Juvenile Sex Offense	574	594	538	469	453	0.3%				
Juvenile Felony	3,077	3,294	2,958	2,465	2,228	1.2%				
Juvenile Misdemeanor	3,431	3,570	3,176	2,463	2,464	1.4%				
Juvenile Cases	7,082	7,458	6,672	5,397	5,145	2.9%				
Misc. Proceedings	1,513	911	739	426	230	0.1%				
Revocations	2,826	2,594	1,918	1,550	1,317	0.7%				
Appeals	48	42	12	13	15	0.0%				
Juvenile Other Proceedings	4,387	3,547	2,669	1,989	1,562	0.9%				
Total Juvenile	11,469	11,005	9,341	7,386	6,707	3.7%				
Summary										
Total Cases	125,847	130,602	120,122	120,089	135,876	75.7%				
Total Misc. Proceedings	12,454	11,235	10,131	6,705	5,937	3.3%				
Total Revocations	44,265	43,400	37,793	32,147	37,483	20.9%				
Total Appeals	514	525	466	351	285	0.2%				
Total Other Proceedings	57,233	55,160	48,390	39,203	43,705	24.3%				
Grand Total Active Cases	183,080	185,762	168,512	159,292	179,581	100.0%				

OSP	OSPD Trial Office - New Cases									
FY18-FY22										
CASE TYPE	FY18 New	EV19 Now	FY20 New	EV21 Now	EV22 New	FY22 % New Cases				
		1 113 New 182	11201464							
Felony 1 Felony 2	157 377	319	339	192 414	204 419	0.2% 0.3%				
Sex Assault Felony 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	1,682	1,782	1,603	1,575	1,251	1.0%				
Felony 3 or 4 (COV)	3,620	3,558	3,381	3,676	3,249	2.6%				
Felony 3 or 4 (non-COV)	9,360	9,834	9,184	8,502	9,066	7.1%				
Felony 5 or 6	9,300	9,834	12,885	14,493	9,000	13.0%				
DUI Felony 4	741	787	703	655	660	0.5%				
Drug Felony 1, 2, 3 or 4	11,873	12,980	9,876	3,997	4,162	3.3%				
Felony Cases	41,152	43,546	38,160	33,504	35,604	27.9%				
Misc. Proceedings	5,374	43,340 5,285	4,589	3,160	2,966	21.9%				
Revocations	18,225	17,590	4,509	12,704	15,103	2.3%				
Appeals	10,225	47	42	45	43	0.0%				
Felony Other Proceedings	23,618	22,922	20,147	15,909	18,112	14.2%				
Total Felony	64,770	66,468	58,307	49,413	53,716	42.2%				
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	755	656	658	595	539	0.4%				
Misdemeanor 1	16,008	16,412	15,049	19,134	19,249	15.1%				
Misdemeanor 2 or 3	13,249	13,740	11,941	12,562	16,716	13.1%				
Misdemeanor DUI	6,756	6,606	5,814	5,634	4,251	3.3%				
Misdemeanor Traffic/Other	13,178	13,077	10,472	10,253	14,648	11.5%				
Misdemeanor Cases	49,946	50,491	43,934	48,178	55,403	43.5%				
Misc. Proceedings	3,347	2,654	2,509	1,160	1,248	1.0%				
Revocations	16,624	16,394	13,207	10,106	12,317	9.7%				
Appeals	208	211	163	85	93	0.1%				
Misdemeanor Other Proceedings	20,179	19,259	15,879	11,351	13,658	10.7%				
Total Misdemeanor	70,125	69,750	59,813	59,529	69,061	54.2%				
Juvenile Sex Offense	342	328	299	218	236	0.2%				
Juvenile Felony	2,285	2,438	2,088	1,470	1,510	1.2%				
Juvenile Misdemeanor	2,518	2,564	2,165	1,420	1,773	1.4%				
Juvenile Cases	5,145	5,330	4,552	3,108	3,519	2.8%				
Misc. Proceedings	1,258	638	525	333	165	0.1%				
Revocations	2,222	2,014	1,385	1,061	921	0.7%				
Appeals	32	19	4	9	9	0.0%				
Juvenile Other Proceedings	3,512	2,671	1,914	1,403	1,095	0.9%				
Total Juvenile	8,657	8,001	6,466	4,511	4,614	3.6%				
Summary										
Total Cases	96,242	99,367	86,646	84,790	94,526	74.2%				
Total Misc. Proceedings	9,926	8,577	7,623	4,653	4,379	3.4%				
Total Revocations	37,115	35,998	30,108	23,871	28,341	22.2%				
Total Appeals	269	277	209	139	145	0.1%				
Total Other Proceedings	47,310	44,852	37,940	28,663	32,865	25.8%				
	,	.,		,						
Grand Total New Cases	143,552	144,219	124,586	113,453	127,391	100.0%				

OSPD Trial Office - Closed Cases									
FY18-FY22									
	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY22 %			
CASE TYPE	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed	Closed			
Felony 1	118	141	147	113	169	0.1%			
Felony 2	285	272	217	282	362	0.3%			
Sex Assault Felony 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6	1,704	1,676	1,578	1,449	1,677	1.3%			
Felony 3 or 4 (COV)	3,398	3,419	3,120	3,175	4,110	3.2%			
Felony 3 or 4 (non-COV)	8,108	8,878	7,874	7,164	7,483	5.7%			
Felony 5 or 6	12,080	12,914	11,405	11,692	15,886	12.2%			
DUI Felony 4	782	742	645	644	695	0.5%			
Drug Felony 1, 2, 3 or 4	10,669	11,524	9,871	4,489	4,047	3.1%			
Felony Cases	37,144	39,566	34,857	29,008	34,429	26.4%			
Misc. Proceedings	5,410	5,229	4,795	3,278	3,116	2.4%			
Revocations	18,017	17,479	15,152	12,062	14,977	11.5%			
Appeals	32	34	45	37	54	0.0%			
Partial Service	2,682	3,274	3,104	2,568	2,387	1.8%			
Felony Other Proceedings	26,141	26,016	23,096	17,945	20,534	15.7%			
Total Felony	63,285	65,582	57,953	46,953	54,963	42.1%			
Misdemeanor Sex Offense	687	636	627	556	724	0.6%			
Misdemeanor 1	15,581	15,219	13,511	15,990	20,156	15.5%			
Misdemeanor 2 or 3	12,659	12,886	10,949	10,874	15,697	12.0%			
Misdemeanor DUI	6,776	6,344	5,450	5,169	5,699	4.4%			
Misdemeanor Traffic/Other	12,897	12,486	10,349	8,588	13,024	10.0%			
Misdemeanor Cases	48,600	47,571	40,886	41,177	55,300	42.4%			
Misc. Proceedings	3,111	2,780	2,610	1,511	1,319	1.0%			
Revocations	16,646	16,214	12,978	9,790	12,282	9.4%			
Appeals	206	206	199	167	106	0.1%			
Partial Service	1,209	1,368	1,615	2,211	2,131	1.6%			
Misdemeanor Other Proceedings	21,172	20,568	17,402	13,679	15,838	12.1%			
Total Misdemeanor	69,772	68,139	58,288	54,856	71,138	54.5%			
Juvenile Sex Offense	294	344	279	238	244	0.2%			
Juvenile Felony	1,989	2,095	1,710	1,574	1,243	1.0%			
Juvenile Misdemeanor	2,269	2,338	1,929	1,665	1,406	1.1%			
Juvenile Cases	4,552	4,777	3,918	3,477	2,893	2.2%			
Misc. Proceedings	1,235	701	639	361	166	0.1%			
Revocations	2,251	2,060	1,438	1,153	949	0.7%			
Appeals	25	34	8	7	10	0.0%			
Partial Service	391	583	468	292	302	0.2%			
Juvenile Other Proceedings	3,902	3,378	2,553	1,813	1,427	1.1%			
Total Juvenile	8,454	8,155	6,471	5,290	4,320	3.3%			
Summary									
Total Cases	90,296	91,914	79,661	73,662	92,622	71.0%			
Total Misc. Proceedings	9,756	8,710	8,044	5,150	4,601	3.5%			
Total Revocations	36,914	35,753	29,568	23,005	28,208	21.6%			
Total Appeals	263	274	25,300	23,003	170	0.1%			
Total Partial Service	4,282	5,225	5,187	5,071	4,820	3.7%			
Total Other Proceedings	51,215	49,962	43,051	33,437	37,799	29.0%			
	.,	,	,						
Crend Total Classed Course		444.000		407 000	400.404	400.051			
Grand Total Closed Cases	141,511	141,876	122,712	107,099	130,421	100.0%			

MISCELLANEOUS HEARINGS

As a result of House Bill 13-1210, the Rothgery bill, and House Bill 14-1032, the Juvenile Defense bill, OSPD began tracking the number of both felony and misdemeanor advisement/bond hearings along with juvenile detention hearings. These statistics are shown separately below and are not included in the Other Proceedings category.

Advisement/Bond Hearings and					
Juvenile Detention Hearings	FY18	FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22
Advisement/Bond, Felony	38,570	42,416	37,719	27,050	42,491
Advisement/Bond, Misdemeanor	35,457	34,503	30,720	24,726	41,314
Juvenile Detention Hearings	3,625	3,338	2,069	789	1,199

CASE WITHDRAWALS

In specific situations, the OSPD will need to withdraw from a case either as the result of a conflict of interest or for non-conflict reasons, such as private counsel entering or OSPD clients deciding to proceed pro se.

	OSPD T		e Withdr	awals							
		FY18-F	Y22								
	FY18 FY19 FY20 FY21 FY22										
New Opened Cases	143,552	144,219	124,586	113,453	127,391						
Conflicts											
Co-Defendant	4,386	4,853	4,006	3,160	3,553						
Witness	5,112	5,664	5,676	6,603	7,368						
Other	1,074	1,465	1,519	1,551	3,193						
Total	10,572	11,982	11,201	11,314	14,114						
% of New Cases	7.4%	8.3%	9.0%	10.0%	11.1%	9.1%	avg				
Non-Conflicts											
Private Counsel	2,447	2,645	2,454	2,358	2,458						
Pro Se	491	502	378	313	403						
Other	960	1,076	859	942	2,567						
Total	3,898	4,223	3,691	3,613	5,428						
% of New Cases	2.7%	2.9%	3.0%	3.2%	4.3%	3.2%	avg				
Total	14,470	16,205	14,892	14,927	19,542						
% of New Cases	10.1%	11.2%	12.0%	13.2%	15.3%	12.4%	avg				

Conflict Withdrawals. A conflict of interest occurs in situations where the OSPD represents a codefendant or a person who is a witness in the case, or other circumstances as identified in the Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct. The withdrawal rate due to a conflict increased to 11 percent this past year.

Year		Adult			Juvenile	venile		Total	
	New Cases	Conflicts	% of new	New Cases	Conflicts	% of new	Total New	Conflicts	% of new
FY18	134,895	9,601	7.1%	8,657	971	11.2%	143,552	10,572	7.4%
FY19	136,218	10,650	7.8%	8,001	1,332	16.6%	144,219	11,982	8.3%
FY20	118,120	10,123	8.6%	6,466	1,078	16.7%	124,586	11,201	9.0%
FY21	108,942	10,589	9.7%	4,511	721	16.0%	113,453	11,310	10.0%
FY22	122,777	13,256	10.8%	4,614	858	18.6%	127,391	14,114	11.1%

APPELLATE DIVISION CASELOAD

APPELLATE CASE TRENDS

Appellate Cases. The Office of the State Public Defender maintains a centralized Appellate Division (the Division) that represents indigent clients in felony appeals from every jurisdiction in the state, regardless of who may have represented them in prior court proceedings (e.g., court-appointed counsel, Alternate Defense Counsel and private attorneys). The Division is expected to handle a total of 1,629 cases in FY 2022-23, of which 779 are in phase one and 850 are in phase two.

- Phase one is where an initial OSPD brief has not yet been filed and is the phase during which the most resources are required. We estimate the Division will see 480 new cases, along with 299 cases carried over from previous years.
- Phase two is the continuation of the case through the appeals process, which can take several years to complete.

APPELLATE DIVISION									
FISCAL YEAR	New Appeals	Briefs Filed by PD	Cases Resolved Other Ways	Appeals Closed in Phase 1	Cases awaiting filing of initial brief	Standard Caseload per NLADA	Cases in excess of NLADA standards	Cases Phase 2 (after OB filed)	Total Active Felony Cases
FY 14	573	367	127	495	749	279	470	1000	2341
FY 15	533	422	122	544	738	363	375	985	2282
FY 16	511	486	141	627	622	359	263	1049	2234
FY 17	525	459	101	560	587	351	236	879	2196
FY 18	523	421	150	571	539	351	188	820	1989
FY 19	563	381	118	499	603	368	235	761	1922
FY 20	514	454	133	587	530	368	162	816	1878
FY 21	256	433	66	499	287	308	0	890	1602
FY 22	379	310	57	367	299	273	26	850	1556
FY 23 Est.	480	343	112	456	324	279	45	778	1629
FY 24 Est.	495	378	116	494	324	293	31	757	1596
FY 25 Est.	510	378	119	498	336	300	36	735	1590
FY 26 Est.	525	378	123	501	360	307	53	713	1596
FY 27 Est.	541	378	127	505	395	307	88	691	1613

Phase One:

The chart above references the appellate caseload standards that have been published by the National Legal Aid & Defender Association ("NLADA") for appellate defender offices since 1980. In FY 2013-14, the number of backlog cases (those awaiting an initial brief) peaked at 749, the highest ever experienced, exceeding the NLADA standard caseload for the Division by 470 cases. The following year, the Division requested and received additional FTEs and funding to help lower this number and has been successful in doing so, dropping to 530 cases as of FY 2019-20, which was the lowest level in over a decade. Furthermore, with the delay in felony cases being processed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, new appellate cases assigned to the Division had dropped by nearly 50 percent in FY 2020-21. This allowed the Division to make great strides in working through the backlog of cases.

However, as expected last year, it was anticipated that as the trial courts began to open back up and conduct trials, felony cases would be resolved and appellate cases would follow the same general trend and would once again increase, In FY 2021-22, the Division did experience this same upward trend as it received 379 new cases, yet staff was able to maintain the number of cases awaiting the filing of the initial brief at a manageable level of 299 cases by year-end which is still in line with the NLADA standards.

With the continued increase in felony cases at the trial level, it is projected that as these felony cases are resolved, appellate cases will continue to increase, returning to pre-COVID levels in FY 2023-24.

Historically, the NLADA standards have been based on the complexity of the appeal and/or the number of pages on the record. The more serious the case, the more complex it would be and have more pages of record to be reviewed. Standards per the NLADA are based on the assumption that an attorney can handle 22 cases per year based on an average of 500 pages on the record. In FY 2021-22 the Division was seeing an average of 1500 pages per case and when adjusted using the NLADA 500 page base, attorneys would be expected to carry 7.3 cases per year.

Last year, the Division had noticed a significant increase in the incoming number of large or complex appeals, which are typically cases resulting in first-degree murder convictions with life sentences, sex assaults, or cases involving eight days or more of trial. Such cases usually involve lengthy records and numerous appellate issues and are thus more time consuming than other appeals. In FY 2021-22, the Division experienced a 40-50 percent increase in such appeals. If that pace continues throughout the year, it could have a significant impact on the Division's workload, even if the number of overall appeals remains below normal levels.

As of the beginning of FY 2022-23, although the current caseload is manageable, the Division is facing attorney turnover and currently has 11 vacant positions which will necessarily be filled as caseloads return to pre-pandemic levels.

Phase Two:

After an opening brief is filed, the case remains active as it progresses through the appellate process and the work involved extends well into subsequent years. Almost with exception, Phase Two involves subphases, which includes filing, consistent with appellate court deadlines, a reply brief in response to the attorney general's answer brief and filing a petition for writ of certiorari with the Colorado Supreme Court asking for review of the Court of Appeals' decision. In a modest percentage of cases, attorneys also file a petition for rehearing in the Court of Appeals or Supreme Court asking for that court to reconsider its opinion. In statutorily eligible direct appeal cases, once the direct appeal has concluded, a postconviction motion under Crim. P. 35(b) is filed in the district court asking for reduction of sentence.

Court deadlines for briefs and petitions in the Colorado Supreme Court often must take precedence over briefs due in the Colorado Court of Appeals. As a result, appellate attorneys frequently pause work on briefs in the Court of Appeals in order to prioritize filings with the Supreme Court. While this may incur some delay in the filing of opening briefs in the Court of Appeals, it has also had the effect of more timely reduction of the cases pending in the second phase of the appeal. The Division estimates there are currently 850 cases at various stages within this process (phase two).

Briefs, Pleadings & Arguments						
Reply Briefs	328					
Motions	150					
Cert Petitions	252					
35B Filed	80					
Oral Arguments	68					

In addition to processing felony appeals statewide, the Division also assists in the appellate process for both county court and juvenile appeals. This past year, staff consulted or worked on over 208 cases, handled roughly 77 queries from juvenile attorneys in the trial offices, and held numerous statewide trainings, enabling trial offices to achieve improved administrative efficiencies as well as increased representational effectiveness.

Performance Measures

		DV an ai	DV at at			Diar as
		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
		(actual)	(actual)	(projected)	(projected)	(projected
MEASURE 1:	Target	119,229	136,144	135,034	139,085	143,258
Number of new trial court cases.	Actual	113,453	127,391			
MEASURE 2:	Target	165,029	175,221	184,968	190,517	196,233
Number of active trial court cases.	Actual	159,292	179,581			
MEASURE 3:	Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of trial court attorney staff allocated	Actual	80%	79%			
vs. total required for closed trial court cases.			<u> </u>			
MEASURE 4:	Target	500	500	500	500	500
Number of attorney applications received.	Actual	500	410			
	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,					
MEASURE 5:	Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of total attorney staff allocated vs. total required for closed trial court cases and appellate cases.	Actual	81%	80%			
MEASURE 6:	Target	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Annual rates of attrition:						
Attorneys	Actual	15%	21%			
Investigators	Actual	9%	10%			
Administrative Assistants	Actual	19%	30%			
Total All Employees	Actual	14%	19%			
			•			
MEASURE 7: Percent of experienced, fully capable staff (journey level or higher):	Target	70%	70%	70%	70%	70%
Attorneys	Actual	39%	39%			
Investigators	Actual	57%	53%			
Administrative Assistants	Actual	41%	36%			
Total All Employees	Actual	45%	43%			
MEASURE 8:	Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent compliance with minimum standards	Actual	83%	80%			

		FY 20-21	FY 21-22	FY 22-23	FY 23-24	FY 24-25
		(actual)	(actual)	(projected)	(projected)	(projected)
MEASURE 9:	Target	12%	12%	12%	12%	12%
Maintain established standard percentages for reasonable staff supervision, management and development.	Actual	10%	9%			
MEASURE 10:	Target	524	450	480	495	510
Number of new appellate cases.	Actual	256	379			
			T	1		
MEASURE 11:	Target	1,870	1,627	1,629	1,596	1,590
Number of active appellate cases.	Actual	1,602	1,556			
			T			
MEASURE 12:	Target	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of appellate attorney staff allocated vs. total required for appellate cases aw aiting filing of initial brief.	Actual	85%	84%			
MEASURE 13:	Target	105,353	129,507	134,333	138,362	142,512
Number of trial court cases closed.	Actual	107,099	130,421	. ,	/	,-
	riotaal	101,000	100,121			
MEASURE 14:	Target	132	132	193	193	193
Days of training provided.	Actual	69	182			
MEASURE 15:	Target	15	15	15	15	15
Number of CLE credits provided to all		-	-	-	-	
		10				
attorneys.	Actual	12	14			
attorneys.	Actual	12	14			
attorneys. MEASURE 16:	Target	12 3	14 3	3	3	3
				3	3	3
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on	Target	3	3	3	3	3
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on	Target	3	3	3	3 15	3
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law .	Target Actual	3 2.2	3 2			
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations	Target Actual Target	3 2.2 15	3 2 15			
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations	Target Actual Target	3 2.2 15	3 2 15			
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed.	Target Actual Target Actual	3 2.2 15 15	3 2 15 15	15	15	15
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed. MEASURE 18: Number of appellate cases for w hich an	Target Actual Target Actual Target	3 2.2 15 15 447	3 2 15 15 358	15	15	15
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed. MEASURE 18: Number of appellate cases for w hich an	Target Actual Target Actual Target	3 2.2 15 15 447	3 2 15 15 358	15	15	15
MEASURE 16: Hours of ethics training provided, focusing on Colorado criminal law . MEASURE 17: Number of administrative processes and organizational infrastructure evaluations performed. MEASURE 18: Number of appellate cases for w hich an Opening Brief has been filed.	Target Actual Target Actual Target Actual Actual Actual	3 2.2 15 15 447 433	3 2 15 15 358 310	15 343	15 378	15 378