

Oregon Department of Justice Ellen F. Rosenblum, Attorney General

Trial Division



Department of Justice – Trial Division

Program Summary

Defend the State, its agencies and officials in civil matters filed in state and federal courts.

- **Civil Litigation**: Torts, employment, civil rights, etc.
- **Criminal & Collateral Remedies**: Post conviction relief, federal and state habeas corpus, PSRB
- **Defense of Agency Orders**: Defends final agency orders against attack in circuit court, SHRP
- **Special Litigation**: Environmental, elections, constitutional challenges, etc.

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Civil Litigation/Special Litigation

Civil Lawsuits for Money Damages or Declaratory/Injunctive Relief

- 600+ new civil lawsuits each year (12.5 new cases/week, 52 new cases/month)
- Plaintiffs sue the State for \$33.75M each year (average \$450,000/case)
- New Cases:

2013 - 2015: 1,228 2011 - 2013: 1,080

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Criminal & Collateral Remedies Civil Suits for Relief from Convictions

- 400+ new suits each year from convicted prisoners (33 new cases/month, 8 new cases/week)
- Great majority serving sentences for Measure 11 crimes
- New Cases:

2013 - 2015: 826 2011 - 2013: 945



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Defense of Agency Orders Contested Administrative Orders

- 120+ new suits each year. About 10 per month.
- New Cases:

2013 - 2015: 104 2011 - 2013: 223



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Civil Litigation/Special Litigation

(Civil Suits/Money Damages)

• Cases litigated to final disposition – 73%

- o 95% success rate
- o 5% lost at trial
 - Verdicts paid \$38,125 on average
 - Versus average demand of \$450,000+
- Cases settled 27%
 - Paid \$89,000* average settlement
 - Versus average demand of \$450,000+
 - *Minus one outlying claim that settled for \$1,250,000

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Criminal & Collateral Remedies

Convictions affirmed: 98%

Defense of Agency Orders

Administrative Orders Affirmed: 93%



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Case Dispositions

Fiscal Year 2014



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Budget Drivers

Caseload Dependent Upon Others

- Plaintiff lawsuits for money damages
- Convicted criminals (usually Measure 11) suing to overturn their convictions
- Licensees/others attempt to overturn agency orders
- Third party subpoenas: agency documents or testimony
- Public records requests



Budget Drivers

Case Complexity

- Numerous varied claims within one suit
- High volume discovery requests
- Effect of higher damages caps
- Numerous motions: DOJ must respond
- Post Conviction Relief/Federal Habeas: increasingly long briefs, retained experts
- Changes in the law: statutes, legal decisions, ballot measure results (legalization of marijuana)



Department of Justice – Trial Division

Policy Packages

• Package 161 – Litigation Support

<u>Modified</u>	Governor's			
Agency Budget	<u>Budget</u>			
\$1.51M OF	\$1.51M OF			

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Department of Justice – Trial Division



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Defense of Criminal Conviction (DCC)



Program Summary

- Mandated Caseload
- Preserve criminal convictions against challenges in state and federal courts.
- Appeal from trial court decisions that place criminal prosecutions in jeopardy.
- Analyze court decisions and provide crucial information and advice to District Attorneys and law-enforcement officers.



Overview of the Process





Direct Appeals

Two possible outcomes in a direct appeal:

- Court will affirm the judgment of conviction
- Court will reverse the judgment of conviction and the court will:
 - Order a new trial
 - Order a new sentence hearing
 - Other relief as the court deems necessary



Post Conviction Relief/Federal Habeas

Two possible outcomes in a PCR/Federal Habeas Corpus proceeding:

- The petition for relief will be **denied** upholding the conviction and sentence; or
- The petition will be **granted**, and the judge will:
 - Order a new trial,
 - Modify the sentence, or
 - Order other relief as necessary



State's Appeals

A small portion of the DCC caseload involves State's appeals:

- Solicitor General approves appeal of lower-court decisions;
- Typically involve a challenge to the dismissal of criminal charges or the exclusion of evidence critical to the successful prosecution of the case;
- Approximately 50 such case per year.



Supporting District Attorneys and Law Enforcement

Respond to legal questions from the state's prosecutors, often on short notice

Prepare and distribute publications on Oregon criminal law, including:

- Weekly electronic legal bulletins
- Search and Seizure Manual
- Oregon Criminal Reporter

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Department of Justice – Defense of Criminal Conviction

10% General Fund/Criminal Fine Account Reductions

Program		Budget	Source	1st 5%	2nd 5%	Total
		millions)				
Crime Victims Law Center	\$	0.08	GF	(0.004)	(0.004)	(0.01)
Address Confidentiality Program	\$	0.11	GF	(0.11)	-	(0.11)
Appellate	\$	0.29	GF	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.03)
Civil Legal	\$	0.66	GF	(0.03)	(0.03)	(0.07)
Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention Program	\$	1.29	GF	(0.06)	(0.06)	(0.13)
Tobacco - NPM Fund/Diligent Defense of the Master Settlement A	\$	3.10	GF	(0.15)	(0.15)	(0.31)
Oregon Domestic and Sexual Violence Services	\$	8.66	GF	(0.33)	(0.44)	(0.77)
District Attorney Assistance/Organized Crime Program	\$	10.38	GF	(0.52)	(0.52)	(1.04)
Defense of Criminal Convictions	\$	23.84	GF	(1.19)	(1.19)	(2.38)
Division of Child Support	\$	24.39	GF	(1.22)	(1.22)	(2.44)
Total	\$	72.81	GF	(3.64)	(3.64)	(7.28)
Child Abuse Multidisciplinary Intervention	\$	11.10	CFA	(0.55)	(0.55)	(1.11)
Crime Victims Assitance (DA VAP)	\$	5.18	CFA	(0.20)	(0.20)	(0.39)
Crime Victims Compensation Program	\$	4.26	CFA	(0.28)	(0.28)	(0.55)
Total	\$	20.54	CFA	(1.03)	(1.03)	(2.05)
Combined Budget	\$	93.35		(4.67)	(4.67)	(9.33)



Department of Justice – Defense of Criminal Conviction



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Appellate Division



2015-17 Governor's Budget				
Positions	61			
FTE	60.13			

Department of Justice – Appellate Division

Program Summary

Write briefs and argue cases in:

- Oregon Court of Appeals
 - State is a party in every criminal and post-conviction case and approximately 60% of the civil cases
- Oregon Supreme Court
 - State is a party in 50-60% of cases
- Federal Appellate Courts





- Defense of Criminal Convictions
- Civil
- Administrative
- Other



Civil

- Torts
- Juvenile dependency and termination of parental rights
- State habeas corpus
- Challenges to statutes and initiatives





Administrative

- Administrative Procedures Act (APA)
- Examples:
 - -Appeals from decisions that affect professional and other licenses
 - -Appeals from regulatory decisions to impose fines or other penalties
 - -Appeals from benefits decisions



Other cases

- "Original Jurisdiction" cases (bypass lower-court review and go directly to the Supreme Court)
 - 0 Mandamus
 - o Ballot titles
 - o State's appeals in murder cases
- Amicus (state is not a party, but has an interest)

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Department of Justice – Appellate Division

Workload

Average number of cases each year:

- Civil/administrative: 400
- Juvenile dependency/termination: 170
- Ballot titles: 30





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Division of Child Support

Child Support Program Goals

- Increase Support to Children
- Improve Overall Program Performance
- Develop and Strengthen Collaborative Partnerships
- Provide Consistently High-Quality Customer Service



Department of Justice – Division of Child Support



Department of Justice – Division of Child Support

Customers

Oregon's Program provides services for families:

- who are currently or were formerly receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Medicaid
- who never received public assistance and apply directly for child support services
- when a child is in the care and custody of the state Child Welfare system (including the Oregon Youth Authority)

There is no means test for services.

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Department of Justice – Division of Child Support

By the Numbers

- 230,000 Oregon cases (1 in 4 U.S. children, 17 million)
- 176,000 children 21 & younger (146,000 18 & younger)
- **15%** of Oregon children 3rd after public school and OHP
- **12** DOJ-DCS branches + **25** DA offices
- \$324 million annual collections (\$1.3 million per day)
- **70%** collected through income withholding
- 93% goes to families (7% reimbursed public assistance)
- For every \$1 spent, **\$5.41** collected

Caseload


Core Functions

- 1. Locate
- 2. Paternity
- 3. Establishment
- 4. Payment & Enforcement
- 5. Modification
- 6. Receipting and Distribution

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Payment & Enforcement

Some of the proverbial "tools in the tool box"

- Income withholding
- Employer health insurance or cash medical
- Unemployment and workers compensation withholding
- Interception of tax refunds, lottery winnings
- Compliance agreements
- Bank data matches, garnishments
- Passport restriction
- Liens on property and money awards

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Leveraged Funds

Investing state funds in the Child Support Program yields a high return on investment.

- Every \$1 of state general funds spent on child support is matched by \$2 of federal funds.
- In FFY 2014, the Child Support Program collected
 \$323.4 million for families, reducing the need for public assistance and avoiding additional costs for taxpayers.
- In FFY 2014, the Child Support Program recovered
 \$34 million in funds for state agencies.

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Total Child Support Collections Distributed in Oregon



Data Source: OCSE 34A Collection Report

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Performance Measures

- State child support programs must meet 5 federal performance measures
 - 1. % of current support collected relative to total owed (KPM #11)
 - 2. % of cases paying toward arrears (KPM #12)
 - 3. % of cases with orders (KPM #13)
 - 4. Cost-effectiveness ratio
 - 5. Paternity establishment ratio

Oregon KPM only: % of collections distributed to families (KPM#10)

States compete for federal incentive funds based on data reliability and performance measures
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Major Budget Drivers

- Aging technology increases liability and workload
- Safeguarding and IRS security requirements
- Lower wages for parents and higher incidence of underor non-employment
- Pass-through and Other Fund recoveries

Major Changes

- 2011-13 Loss of 18 Positions
 - With 2:1 federal match, General Fund reductions compounded
 - o Maintained high vacancy rate 2009 through 2013
 - o Loss of productivity and collections
- 2013-15 Transition of County Program
 - o Klamath County Program closed
 - o Transfer of 1,094 cases to DOJ

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Efficiencies

- Business Process Reengineering
 - Reengineered all Program processes for efficiency, security, and application into the new system
- Employer Portal
 - o Internet based employer portal
 - o Increased reporting and payment functionality
 - o National model
- Additional Payment Methods
 - Visa and electronic check payments
 - Cash payments at kiosks throughout the state

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Policy Packages

 Package 201 – Child Support System Project

Modified	Governor's
Agency Budget	<u>Budget</u>
\$2.13M GF	\$2.13M GF
\$15.43M OF	\$15.43M OF
\$30.00M FF	\$30.00M FF

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Information Technology

Child Support System Project

(Policy Package 201)

- The Oregon Child Support Program relies on an antiquated, brittle mainframe computer case management and financial system.
- The Program is working with its federal oversight office on a multi-year, federallyprescribed process to replace its federally-certified system.
- Policy Package 201 will allow the Program to stay in compliance with federal requirements, compete for federal incentives, and keep up with increasing caseload demands.





Child Support System Project (Policy Package 201)

Feasibility Study Report – Nov 2011 to Oct 2012

Business Process Re-engineering – Dec 2012 to Dec 2013

Implementation Approval – 2013 Legislative Session

Continuation of Implementation Project – 2015 Session

- State's 34% portion of the cost in the 2015-17 biennium of modernizing Oregon's Child Support System sale of capital bonds
- Federal oversight throughout design, development, transition

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Child Support System Project Progress to Date

Business Process Re-engineering

Procurement of Contractors

- Project Management
- System Integrator
- Quality Assurance
- Independent Verification & Validation

Foundational Documents

Design ("JAD") Sessions

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Child Support System Project Steering Committee



Child Support System Project Plans for 2015-2017

Facility Stand-up for Design and Build

JAD & JTD Sessions

- Business Function
- Technical Design

System Build

Preparation for Test Phase

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Administrative Services Division



Primary Responsibilities

Provide business support functions:

- Human Resources Services, including Payroll
- Accounting and Budgeting
- Technology Delivery
- Facilities and Operations







Human Resources/Financial Services

- Payroll consolidation with DOJ, Department of Consumer Business Services, and Department of Revenue.
- Automated medical leave tracking system tied to payroll time records.
- Conducted External Review of Financial Services.





Information Services

- Committed to a highly sophisticated information security protocol.
- Implemented Mobile Device Management software to administer all Department mobile devices.
- Eliminated over 300 physical servers.





Operations

- Consolidated two locations for the Child Support Division into two existing DOJ facilities.
- Returned nine state vehicles in the last two years.
- Working to create healthy work environments 25% reduction in SAIF claims.





Major Budget Drivers

- DOJ Program needs and priorities, based on client needs.
- Rapid rate of technology change and security needs.
- Regulatory requirements Affordable Care Act, Internal Revenue Service.





Major Changes

- ASD is preparing for the changes resulting from the Child Support System Project.
- Increasingly mobile DOJ workforce.
- Addition of litigation support function.
- Upgrading Department's website.
- Increasing complexity/frequency of cyber threats.
- Upgrading of litigation software tools.

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Program Efficiencies

- Updated Microsoft software licenses and maintenance contracts.
- Completed functional review of our Financial Services Section.
- Implemented new security technology and process improvement where possible.
- Conducting proof of concept for consolidating Payroll function with two other state agencies.





Policy Packages

	Modified	Governor's				
	Agency Budget	Budget				
• Package 111 – Staffing and Support -	\$0.29M OF	\$0.29M OF				
Human Resources Staffing/Workload						
• Package 111 – Staffing and Support -	\$0.14M OF	\$0.14M OF				
Financial Services Staffing/Workload						
• Package 111 – Staffing and Support -	\$2.32M OF	\$0.93M OF				
Information Services Projects						
• Package 111 – Staffing and Support -	\$0.66M OF	\$0.66M OF				
Operations Reclasses and Facilities Moves						

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