Unrepresented Persons

Public Safety Subcommittee

May 15, 2025

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Drivers and Actions

County Specifics

6 counties make up 94% of unrepresented, out-ofcustody, pretrial cases and 82% of all in-custody, unrepresented cases.

Multnomah, Washington and Marion make up 68% of pretrial cases.





Coos

- Unrepresented heavily misdemeanor, DUII;
- State employee living in Coos is at 127% MAC , has taken 96 unrepresented cases;
- Unrepresented resolution docket begins 5/23 with over 20 DUII cases.

Jackson

- Misdemeanor filings increased 45.7% from 2023 to 2024;
- Unrepresented heavily misdemeanor;
- 48% of unrepresented misdemeanors are DUII;
- Southern trial division staffing an early disposition docket;
- Probation Violation docket starts in June.

Douglas

- Average days
 unrepresented have
 declined 37% since
 1/1/25;
- State trial division attorney living in Eugene takes Douglas cases, reducing drive time;
- Case assignment process needs review and improvement.

Marion

- Misdemeanor filings rose
 20% between 2023 and 2024;
- Limited forced appointments;
- High rates of unrepresented driving cases.



Ongoing & Future Work:

- Assess assignment coordination process for improvements;
- Ensure data accuracy; provide training where needed;
- OJD staffer collaborates with OPDC assignment coordinators;
- Trial Division has taken 500 cases, and 4002 attorney staffs RESTORE Court;
- Trial Division is also working with the court and DA on additional targeted resolution dockets, early resolution dockets, and mass settlement dockets.

Washington

- In-custody holding relatively steady; out-of-custody pretrial rapidly increasing since mid-2024;
- Half of unrepresented cases are driving offenses;
- Misdemeanor filings rose 24% in 2024 compared to 2023.



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Ongoing & Future Work:

- OPDC Resolution Docket began 5/7, addressing up to 20 unrepresented persons per week, staffed by contractor;
- Early Case Resolution dockets could benefit from additional resources;
- Contract flexibility to hire classes;
- Hourly panel growth and training;
- Trial Division has taken 297 cases, may be able to supplement ECR docket;
- Trial Division is also currently working with the court and DA on additional targeted resolution dockets.

Multnomah

- In-custody declining slowly since late February;
- Out-of-custody pretrial rapidly increasing;
- Property crimes are the most common;
- Misdemeanor filings rose 32% between 2023 and 2024.



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Ongoing & Future Work:

- Contracting flexibility to allow nonprofits to hire new cohorts;
- Hourly panel growth and training;
- Early resolution program targeting specific parts of the unrepresented backlog;
- Trial Division has taken 323 cases.

Capacity and Structural Changes

Contracts

Approved Contract Modifications

- Procedures and enforcement mechanisms to ensure compliance with contracts;
- Reduced caseload for first-year lawyers;
- Requirements for cases to be considered for co-counsel;
- Partial weighting for early withdrawal from criminal cases;
- Partial weighting for second and subsequent attorneys;
- Vacant contracted positions.

Additional Modifications

- Contracting flexibility to exceed MAC:
 - Maintain ethical limits;
 - Experienced attorneys;
 - Prioritize crisis counties;
 - Coupled with data collection.
- Contracting flexibility to allow nonprofits to hire new cohorts;
- Increased monitoring for contract compliance.

Oregon Trial Division

- Overall trial division MAC utilization 102.9%;
- Has taken 2,147 cases since opening;
- Flexibility permitted trial division coverage in Deschutes, Coos, and Douglas.



Hourly

Hourly Panel of Attorneys

- New obligations to accept appointments to cases
- Performance assessments and periodic reevaluation of attorney qualifications
- New caseload reporting

Assignment Coordinators:

- OPDC-assigned cases have increased 290% since May 2024
- 43% of hourly assignments are at the standard rate
- Expanding OPDC's role in assignments would provide more oversight and standardization.

Cases assigned by OPDC Assignment Coordinators since May 2024:

Assignment	Attorney Count	Client Count	Case Count
Contract	189	579	781
Hourly	314	4,389	6,364
Trial Division	24	701	1,140
Total	468	5,579	8,217



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