



State of Minnesota
Board of Public Defense
Report on
Public Defender Reimbursements
Fiscal Year 2014



A report to the Legislature prepared
by the Board of Public Defense per
Minnesota Statutes 611.20

Citation

Minnesota Statutes 611.20 requires the State of Minnesota Board of Public Defense to report annually on the collection and disbursement of public defender reimbursements. After consultation with the staff at the Minnesota Supreme Court it was determined that some of the variables outlined for reporting in M.S. 611.20 are not available. Minnesota Statutes 3.197 requires the reporting of the cost of report preparation. Staff time was minimal in preparing this report and as a result there were no production costs.

Background

Minnesota Statutes 611.20 Subd. 2 authorizes the trial court to direct those public defender clients who are able to pay at least part of their defense costs to do so.

Prior to July 1, 1999 the first \$180,000 of public defender reimbursements were deposited in the general fund of the State of Minnesota, as a non-dedicated receipt. The Board of Public Defense, retained receipts in excess of \$180,000. Due to the uncertain nature of this funding expenditures were limited to one-time expenses. The vast majority of this funding was used to provide training for public defenders (Continuing Legal Education Credits).

In the 1998 Legislative Session M.S. 611.20 was amended to direct all reimbursements to the Board of Public Defense. Funds retained under this provision are to be used to offset the overhead costs of part time assistant public defenders. The board receives the reimbursements ordered and collected by the Court in each Judicial District. Reimbursement payments are made to part time assistant public defenders on a quarterly basis. The amount that each attorney receives depends on the amount collected, and the number of part time defenders in the Judicial District.

Caseloads and Reimbursements

During FY 2014 employees of the Board of Public Defense reported opening approximately 144,000 cases. In that same time period the State of Minnesota Department of Management and Budget reported receiving \$346,000 in reimbursements from public defender clients.

While the Court does not keep data on the number of cases where reimbursement is ordered, some inter-district comparisons can be made. In order to compare workloads across district lines the board uses a "case unit" measure. The "case unit" is defined by the relative difficulty of the different types of cases as determined by the Board of Public Defense Weighted Caseload Study. A "case unit" equals the defense service that goes into the average misdemeanor case. The "case unit" is then applied to each case type to arrive at the total case units for each district. Reimbursement totals are divided by the number of case units in each Judicial District Public Defender Office to arrive at a reimbursement amount "per case unit".

Table 1 outlines for fiscal year 2014 the total reimbursements by district, amount per case unit, and the amount distributed to each category of part-time public defender. Table 2 outlines the reimbursements by county for fiscal year 2014.

Public Defender Reimbursements | 2014

Table 1

Fiscal Year 2014 Public Defender Reimbursements by Judicial District

<u>District</u>	<u>Cases Opened</u>	<u>Case Units</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Per Case Unit</u>	<u>Per 75% Time Defender</u>	<u>Per 50% Time Defender</u>	<u>Per 25% Time Defender</u>
First	13,244	22,999	\$86,904	\$3.78	\$3,248	n/a	n/a
Second[1]	14,627	23,987	\$597	\$0.02	\$70	\$47	
Third	9,966	18,050	\$23,867	\$1.32	\$1,526	\$1,017	\$509
Fourth[2]	43,243	67,551	\$18	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fifth	6,291	11,007	\$75,927	\$6.90	\$5,614	\$3,742	n/a
Sixth	8,794	14,591	\$2,810	\$0.19	\$155	\$104	n/a
Seventh	12,149	19,988	\$80,245	\$4.01	\$2,702	n/a	n/a
Eighth	3,258	5,711	\$32,829	\$5.75	\$2,875	\$1,918	n/a
Ninth	13,144	22,445	\$20,083	\$0.89	\$1,053	n/a	\$351
Tenth	18,992	32,928	\$23,714	\$0.72	\$783	\$522	n/a
Total	143,708	239,257	\$346,993	\$1.45	\$2,003	\$1,470	\$430

n/a- no public defenders in those categories.

[1]- Criminal Defense Services Inc. (CDI) appears on behalf of working defendants who have limited funds to hire an attorney.

[2]- There are no part-time state employed defenders in the Fourth District

Public Defender Reimbursements | 2014

Table 2- Fiscal Year 2014 Reimbursement Amount by County

<u>County</u>	<u>Jud. Dist.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Jud. Dist.</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Aitkin	9	\$118	Martin	5	\$7,859
Anoka	10	\$50	McLeod	1	\$5,561
Becker	7	\$1,128	Meeker	8	\$4,255
Beltrami	9	\$789	Mille Lacs	7	\$5,438
Benton	7	\$1,569	Morrison	7	\$3,831
Big Stone	8	\$1,348	Mower	3	\$821
Blue Earth	5	\$12,146	Murray	5	\$742
Brown	5	\$7,466	Nicollet	5	\$6,992
Carlton	6	\$760	Nobles	5	\$5,740
Carver	1	\$10,890	Norman	9	\$57
Cass	9	\$1,735	Olmsted	3	\$2,114
Chippewa	8	\$4,680	Otter Tail	7	\$23,714
Chisago	10	\$2,455	Pennington	9	\$1,251
Clay	7	\$5,781	Pine	10	\$368
Clearwater	9	\$795	Pipestone	5	\$1,677
Cook	6	\$0	Polk	9	\$2,174
Cottonwood	5	\$2,340	Pope	8	\$2,657
Crow Wing	9	\$1,831	Ramsey	2	\$597
Dakota	1	\$29,391	Red Lake	9	\$33
Dodge	3	\$1,505	Redwood	5	\$6,691
Douglas	7	\$19,453	Renville	8	\$4,933
Faribault	5	\$1,878	Rice	3	\$7,850
Fillmore	3	\$3,488	Rock	5	\$2,009
Freeborn	3	\$0	Roseau	9	\$3,425
Goodhue	1	\$6,938	Scott	1	\$24,431
Grant	8	\$170	Sherburne	10	\$643
Hennepin	4	\$18	Sibley	1	\$2,691
Houston	3	\$560	St. Louis	6	\$2,015
Hubbard	9	\$2,183	Stearns	7	\$15,189
Isanti	10	\$962	Steele	3	\$662
Itasca	9	\$1,766	Stevens	8	\$461
Jackson	5	\$4,340	Swift	8	\$840
Kanabec	10	\$2,109	Todd	7	\$2,366
Kandiyohi	8	\$7,046	Traverse	8	\$520
Kittson	9	\$599	Wabasha	3	\$2,185
Koochiching	9	\$40	Wadena	7	\$1,777
Lac Qui Parle	8	\$1,603	Waseca	3	\$762
Lake	6	\$35	Washington	10	\$14,657
Lake of the Woods	9	\$155	Watonwan	5	\$2,582
Le Sueur	1	\$7,002	Wilkin	8	\$2,765
Lincoln	5	\$1,968	Winona	3	\$3,919
Lyon	5	\$11,497	Wright	10	\$2,471
Mahnomen	9	\$1,413	Yellow Medicine	8	\$1,550
Marshall	9	\$1,719			

