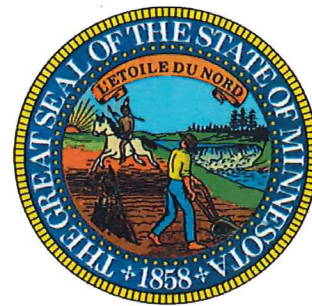




State of Minnesota  
Board of Public Defense  
Report on  
Public Defender Reimbursements  
Fiscal Year 2015



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 2015 employees of the Board of Public Defense reported opening approximately 140,000 cases. In that same time period the State of Minnesota Department of Management and Budget reported receiving \$361,000 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 2015 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 2015.

# Public Defender Reimbursements | 2015

**Table 1**

**Fiscal Year 2015 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	12,730	22,503	\$93,372	\$4.15	\$3,194	n/a	n/a
<a href="#">Second[1]</a>	14,988	24,715	\$646	\$0.03	\$65	\$43	
Third	9,849	17,863	\$23,764	\$1.33	\$1,675	\$1,117	\$558
<a href="#">Fourth[2]</a>	38,252	63,054	\$113	\$0.00	n/a	n/a	n/a
Fifth	6,563	11,528	\$69,743	\$6.05	\$5,200	\$3,469	n/a
Sixth	8,754	14,745	\$3,240	\$0.22	\$162	\$108	n/a
Seventh	12,882	21,244	\$88,597	\$4.17	\$2,599	n/a	n/a
Eighth	3,725	6,628	\$33,698	\$5.08	\$3,591	\$2,396	n/a
Ninth	13,853	23,772	\$24,219	\$1.02	\$1,240	n/a	\$413
Tenth	17,866	31,072	\$23,300	\$0.75	\$726	\$484	n/a
<b>Total</b>	<b>139,462</b>	<b>237,124</b>	<b>\$360,692</b>	<b>\$2.28</b>	<b>\$2,050</b>	<b>\$1,270</b>	<b>\$486</b>

[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 | 2015

**Table 2- Fiscal Year 2015 Reimbursement Amount by County**

<u>County</u>	<u>Judical Dist.</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Judical Distr</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Carver	1	\$12,708	Otter Tail	7	\$24,663
Dakota	1	\$28,725	Stearns	7	\$16,406
Goodhue	1	\$8,056	Todd	7	\$4,478
Le Sueur	1	\$5,006	Wadena	7	\$1,562
McLeod	1	\$5,434	Big Stone	8	\$902
Scott	1	\$28,387	Chippewa	8	\$3,581
Sibley	1	\$5,056	Grant	8	\$333
Ramsey	2	\$646	Kandiyohi	8	\$9,400
Dodge	3	\$888	Lac Qui Parle	8	\$391
Fillmore	3	\$2,443	Meeker	8	\$3,986
Freeborn	3	\$0	Pope	8	\$2,916
Houston	3	\$475	Renville	8	\$4,829
Mower	3	\$1,247	Stevens	8	\$360
Olmsted	3	\$4,310	Swift	8	\$1,112
Rice	3	\$5,396	Traverse	8	\$363
Steele	3	\$37	Wilkin	8	\$479
Wabasha	3	\$1,327	Yellow Medicine	8	\$5,045
Waseca	3	\$814	Aitkin	9	\$159
Winona	3	\$6,827	Beltrami	9	\$2,030
Hennepin	4	\$113	Cass	9	\$2,263
Blue Earth	5	\$11,876	Clearwater	9	\$290
Brown	5	\$7,250	Crow Wing	9	\$3,472
Cottonwood	5	\$1,264	Hubbard	9	\$767
Faribault	5	\$2,196	Itasca	9	\$1,274
Jackson	5	\$4,076	Kittson	9	\$951
Lincoln	5	\$859	Koochiching	9	\$0
Lyon	5	\$12,049	Lake of the Woods	9	\$407
Martin	5	\$6,765	Mahnomen	9	\$473
Murray	5	\$1,350	Marshall	9	\$1,882
Nicollet	5	\$4,829	Norman	9	\$1,125
Nobles	5	\$4,440	Pennington	9	\$2,062
Pipestone	5	\$1,596	Polk	9	\$4,136
Redwood	5	\$7,364	Red Lake	9	\$819
Rock	5	\$2,194	Roseau	9	\$2,111
Watonwan	5	\$1,633	Anoka	10	\$233
Carlton	6	\$359	Chisago	10	\$1,118
Cook	6	\$769	Isanti	10	\$1,216
Lake	6	\$18	Kanabec	10	\$1,459
St. Louis	6	\$2,094	Pine	10	\$916
Becker	7	\$2,843	Sherburne	10	\$850
Benton	7	\$1,881	Washington	10	\$15,011
Clay	7	\$9,415	Wright	10	\$2,497
Douglas	7	\$20,669	<b>STATEWIDE TOTALS</b>		<b>\$360,693</b>
Mille Lacs	7	\$3,449			
Morrison	7	\$3,231			