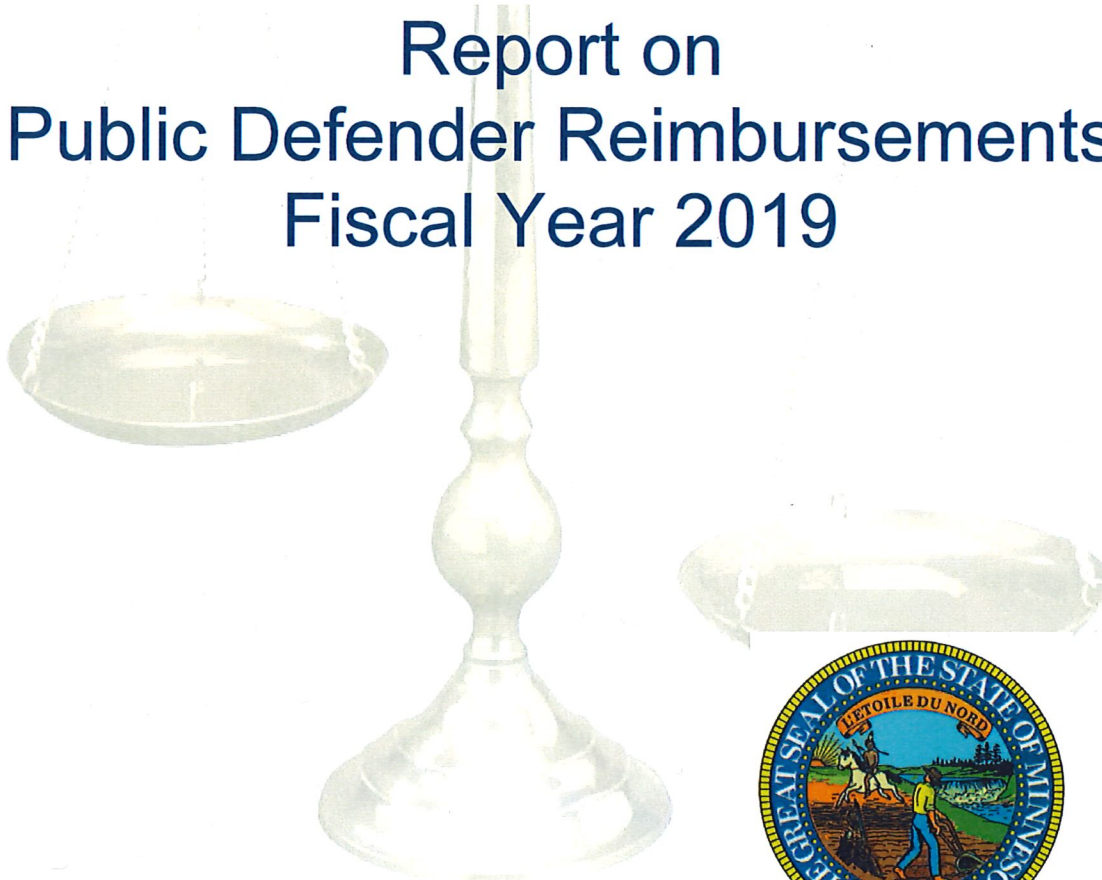




# MINNESOTA BOARD OF PUBLIC DEFENSE

## Report on Public Defender Reimbursements Fiscal Year 2019



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.

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 fiscal year 2019 employees of the Board of Public Defense reported opening approximately 145,000 cases. In that same time period the State of Minnesota Department of Management and Budget reported receiving \$384,000 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 2019 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 2019.

**Table 1****Fiscal Year 2019 Public Defender Reimbursements by Judicial District**

<b><u>District</u></b>	<b><u>Cases Opened</u></b>	<b><u>Case Units</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Per Case Unit</u></b>	<b><u>Per 75%Time Defender</u></b>	<b><u>Per 50% Time Defender</u></b>
First	15,360	27,026	\$33,849	\$1.25	\$3,218	n/a
Second 1	13,864	23,233	\$5,333	\$0.23	\$40	\$27
Third	10,145	18,639	\$59,425	\$3.19	\$1,786	\$1,191
Fourth	35,390	59,976	\$0	\$0.00	\$0	\$0
Fifth	7,329	13,396	\$40,719	\$3.04	\$16,465	\$10,984
Sixth	8,737	14,424	\$3,014	\$0.21	\$103	\$69
Seventh	15,334	26,588	\$32,453	\$1.22	\$2,548	n/a
Eighth	4,325	7,630	\$62,741	\$8.22	\$3,749	\$2,501
Ninth	14,450	24,806	\$114,884	\$4.63	\$1,727	n/a
Tenth	19,600	34,341	\$31,919	\$0.93	\$684	\$456
<b>Total</b>	<b>144,534</b>	<b>250,059</b>	<b>\$384,337</b>	<b>\$2.29</b>	<b>\$3,032</b>	<b>\$2,175</b>

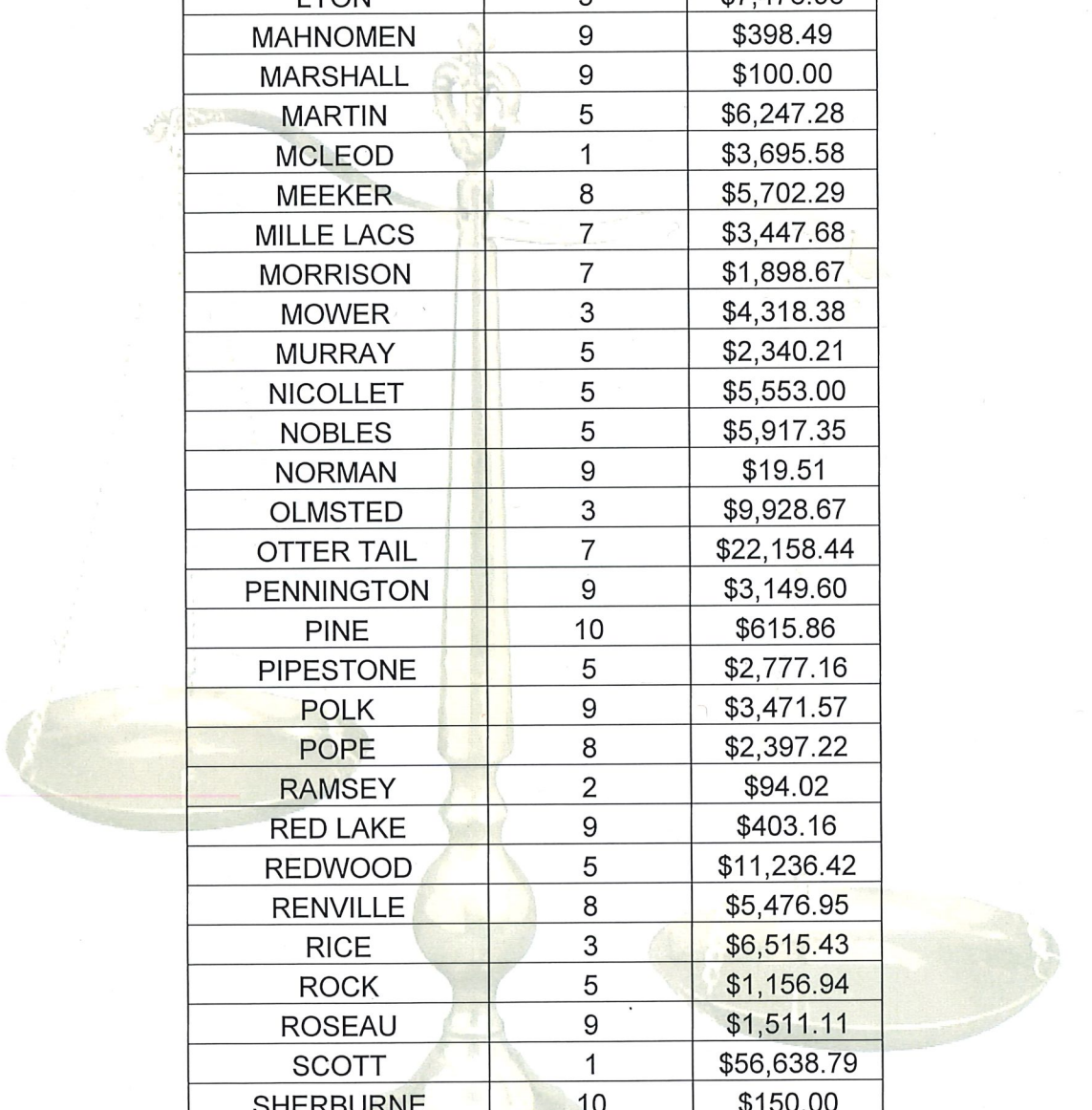
[1]- Criminal Defense Services Inc. (CDI) appears on behalf of working defendants who have limited funds to hire an attorney.

n/a- There are no part time defenders in this class.



**Table 2 Fiscal Year 2019 Reimbursement Amounts by County**

<u>County</u>	<u>District</u>	<u>Amount</u>
AITKIN	9	\$1,193.11
ANOKA	10	\$382.76
BECKER	7	\$2,765.67
BELTRAMI	9	\$3,915.90
BENTON	7	\$1,994.98
BIG STONE	8	\$127.14
BLUE EARTH	5	\$23,469.48
BROWN	5	\$5,333.30
CARLTON	6	\$1,103.00
CARVER	1	\$7,408.30
CASS	9	\$1,180.68
CHIPPEWA	8	\$1,217.01
CHISAGO	10	\$1,878.43
CLAY	7	\$13,578.55
CLEARWATER	9	\$1,461.28
COOK	6	\$0.00
COTTONWOOD	5	\$3,458.17
CROW WING	9	\$8,160.17
DAKOTA	1	\$19,979.78
DODGE	3	\$0.00
DOUGLAS	7	\$12,333.72
FARIBAULT	5	\$2,581.06
FILLMORE	3	\$787.28
FREEBORN	3	\$271.45
GOODHUE	1	\$9,471.95
GRANT	8	\$536.54
HENNEPIN	4	\$0.00
HOUSTON	3	\$300.00
HUBBARD	9	\$1,405.02
ISANTI	10	\$644.07
ITASCA	9	\$1,349.03
JACKSON	5	\$2,059.60
KANABEC	10	\$861.85
KANDIHOYI	8	\$8,052.46
KITTSOON	9	\$65.35
KOOCHICHING	9	\$1,268.75
LAC QUI PARLE	8	\$930.36



LAKE	6	\$145.00
LAKE OF WOODS	9	\$669.63
LE SUEUR	1	\$2,469.76
LINCOLN	5	\$1,016.35
LYON	5	\$7,476.96
MAHNOMEN	9	\$398.49
MARSHALL	9	\$100.00
MARTIN	5	\$6,247.28
MCLEOD	1	\$3,695.58
MEEKER	8	\$5,702.29
MILLE LACS	7	\$3,447.68
MORRISON	7	\$1,898.67
MOWER	3	\$4,318.38
MURRAY	5	\$2,340.21
NICOLLET	5	\$5,553.00
NOBLES	5	\$5,917.35
NORMAN	9	\$19.51
OLMSTED	3	\$9,928.67
OTTER TAIL	7	\$22,158.44
PENNINGTON	9	\$3,149.60
PINE	10	\$615.86
PIPESTONE	5	\$2,777.16
POLK	9	\$3,471.57
POPE	8	\$2,397.22
RAMSEY	2	\$94.02
RED LAKE	9	\$403.16
REDWOOD	5	\$11,236.42
RENVILLE	8	\$5,476.95
RICE	3	\$6,515.43
ROCK	5	\$1,156.94
ROSEAU	9	\$1,511.11
SCOTT	1	\$56,638.79
SHERBURNE	10	\$150.00
SIBLEY	1	\$3,542.33
ST LOUIS	6	\$1,398.09
STEARNS	7	\$18,816.52
STEELE	3	\$957.53
STEVENS	8	\$319.00
SWIFT	8	\$927.22
TODD	7	\$4,202.80
TRAVERSE	8	\$358.81

WABASHA	3	\$1,273.31
WADENA	7	\$464.00
WASECA	3	\$294.96
WASHINGTON	10	\$21,399.64
WATONWAN	5	\$2,690.41
WILKIN	8	\$233.08
WINONA	3	\$2,317.97
WRIGHT	10	\$1,924.69
YELLOW MEDICINE	8	\$2,593.83
<b><u>TOTAL</u></b>		<b>\$384,337.87</b>

