



CASELOAD MANAGEMENT TOOL RULES

Including a Step by Step Process

*as developed and approved by
the Labor Management Committee*

1. Every Regional Deputy Public Defender and Managing Attorney will receive this set of rules and instructions that explain how to use the caseload management tool and a form that will be used to track caseload. Every region will follow these rules and use this form.
2. The Regional Deputy Public Defender and/or Managing Attorney will assign and track cases by attorney for the office or region. If the Regional Deputy Public Defender or Managing Attorney is absent they will appoint a backup person who will be an attorney to assign and track cases. Every region will provide the Central Office with a list of those individuals that are approved to assign and track cases including all backup personnel.
3. Cases will be assigned daily and entered into the caseload management form. This information will be reported to the Central Office within 10 calendar days after the end of each month.
4. The form will have 12 months for each attorney and a sum of the activity for the 12 month period at the bottom of each column.
5. For a new attorney any month that does not have “actual information” for case assignments will have 11 units in place of the non-existent actual information. Therefore each attorney will begin with 132 units or case assignments (12 months times 11 units = 132). [Group Discussion: should the place holder be 12.5 or some number in between 11 and 12.5?].
6. This tool is monitoring case intake rather than open cases, therefore, there is no incentive for a staff attorney to keep cases open.
7. One case is any number of tickets or charges an individual received in a specific incident and assigned to one jurisdiction for adjudication (i.e.

Traffic stop results in a speeding ticket, criminal distribution of dangerous drugs and possession – if litigated in the same court – all one case).

8. When a staff attorney's annual case units reaches 150 annual units, the Regional Deputy Public Defender or Managing Attorney must meet with the staff attorney to discuss the attorney's entire caseload. [Does the LMC have the authority to set maximum case limits – for example 150 units per year or 15 per month? Or is this a bargaining issue?]
9. This tool is not a performance measure but is simply used to assess whether resources are being properly distributed and help assure that the agency is not exceeding ethical caseload limits.
10. The LMC agreed to value case units as follows.
 - A. Felonies are split into four groups:
 - i. Property crimes and offenses against public administration and order = 1.00
 - ii. Felony DUI or dangerous drugs = 1.50
 - iii. Crimes against persons (except homicide) = 2.00
 - iv. Homicide = 5.00

Units are assigned based upon the highest crime charged, and then additional units are added to the case as follows:

- v. Three or four charges, add 0.50
- vi. Five or more charges, add 1.00
- vii. Case assignment outside of home region, add 0.50

See Attachment A.

- B. Misdemeanors are divided into two groups:
 - i. All city ordinance violations, disorderly conduct, obstructing, minor in possession and all traffic offenses except DUI/PerSe = 0.30
 - ii. DUI/PerSe and all crimes except disorderly conduct, obstructing and minor in possession = 0.70
 - iii. Cases comprised of five or more charges = 0.70

See Attachment A.

- C. Petition to Revoke (PTR) = 0.50 units

D. Dependent and Neglect (DN) = 2.00 units (see note below)

E. Guardianship (DG) = 0.50 units

F. Fugitive and out of county warrants = 0.25 units

G. Civil Commitments (DI) = 1.00 units

H. Juveniles

i. Felony = 1.00 units

ii. Misdemeanor or status offense = 0.50 units

I. Developmentally Disabled (DD) = 1.00 units

J. Treatment Court – more to come.

Note: DN case weighting is based upon the cause number of the parent(s), not the number of children, and includes termination proceedings, so trial level preparation is necessary.

11. Actual monthly case units will replace the 11 unit place holder and become part of the calculation of total annual units. [This will need to change if the placeholder is changed].
12. This is a “rolling month” process so the most recent actual information replaces the old information and the total is recalculated.
13. Special circumstances:
 - A. Warrants: If a case goes to warrant status, make no adjustments. Similarly, if a case comes back from warrant status to active, make no adjustments unless the case has been re-assigned to another attorney. (Generally, these cases will most likely return to the attorney’s caseload within the year.)
 - B. Conflicts: If a case is conflicted out of the office after it has been assigned, subtract the appropriate case units from the attorney to whom it was assigned. (Management retains discretion to leave the case credit on the original attorney’s count if the case goes to conflict at a late stage after the attorney has worked the case for some time or if the attorney has expended significant hours.) Adjustments should be made in the month in which the transfer takes place, regardless of

when the appointment was made (because spreadsheet focuses primarily on current workload it doesn't make sense to go back to previous months and make adjustments).

- C. Co-counsel: If an attorney is full co-counsel, give that attorney a full credit. If the attorney is a trial-only co-counsel, give the attorney one-half of the allotted unit credit.

- D. New hires: Backfill the total number of cases transferred to the attorney at [consider using 12.5 units rather than 15 units] 15 units per month beginning with the current month until all cases that have been transferred are accounted for. Backfill to fill out the year with [the placeholder as approved by the LMC] 11s.

- E. When a case is transferred from one attorney to another the case credit moves with the case (subtract from the original attorney, add to the new attorney). Adjustment should be made in the month in which the transfer takes place, unless more than 15 units are transferred in a given month. If more than 15 units are transferred in a given month, the transfer will be spread across the previous months until the total transfer is accounted for and the other preceding months reflect up to 15 units. Example: Step One: subtract the number of cases taken from that attorney (if any are taken away, an attorney might only receive cases)

Example:

Step One: attorney gives away 20 cases

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
8	12	10	12	10	12	
				-8	-12	(subtract 20 cases)

8	12	10	12	2	0	(total after cases subtracted)

Step Two: add the cases received (gets 30 cases)

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	
8	12	10	12	2	0	
			+2	+13	+15	(add 30 cases)

8	12	10	14	15	15	(total after cases added)

- 14. This tool will be reviewed periodically and may be adjusted by the Labor Management Committee.

ATTACHMENT A

Misdemeanor:

0.3 units

- ALL Traffic Offenses (Title 61) (chapters 3,5, 6, 7, 8 9, 11, 13)
Except (DUI / PerSe – 61-8-401 and 61-8-406)

- Crimes (ONLY these three) Disorderly Conduct 45-8-101
Obstructing 45-7-302
Minor in Possession 45-5-624

- All City Ordinance Violations

0.7 units

- DUI / PerSe (Title 61) (DUI 61-8-401 and PerSe 61-8-406)

- Crimes (ALL Title 45) (chapters 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10)
Except Disorderly Conduct 45-8-101
Obstructing 45-7-302
Minor in Possession 45-5-624

- If there are **5 or more charges** in one case

Add 0.5 to the case total for **appeals** from Justice/Municipal/City court upon the appeal

Assign the unit based on the highest crime charged, then no units for the other charges

EXAMPLES

- 1- Disorderly, DUI, and open container = 0.7
(because DUI is worth the most, don't count the others)
- 2- No insurance, obstructing, and driving while suspended = 0.3
(that's the highest unit for any one of them)
- 3- No insurance, obstructing, no DL, speeding, minor in possession = 0.7
(even though all are in the 0.3 category, because there are 5 or more charges assign 0.7)

Felony:

1.0 units

- Property Crimes (45-6-101 – 45-6-341)
- Offenses Against Public Administration (45-7-101 – 45-7-501)
- Offenses Against Public Order (45-8-103 – 45-8-408)

1.5 units

- Dangerous Drugs (45-9-101 – 45-9-132)
- Felony DUI (61-8-401, 61-8-406)

2.0 units

- Offenses Against the Person (45-5-201 – 45-5-634)
Except Homicide charges

5.0 units

- Homicide (45-5-101 – 45-5-106)

Add 0.5 to the units assigned if there are 3 or 4 charges in the case

Add 1.0 to the units assigned if there are 5 or more charges in the case

Add 0.5 to the units assigned if the case is an “in-house” conflict (case is outside of the assigned office/region).

(Example: Kidnapping charged in Kalispell, but the attorney comes from Missoula – person crime + 0.5 for travel, assign 2.5.)

Inchoate Offenses (**Solicitation, Conspiracy, and Attempt**), assign units according to the underlying crime.

Example: attempted robbery, assign points for robbery, 45-5-401 = 2.0 units

Assign the units based on the highest crime charged, then look at the number of charges for extra points:

EXAMPLES

- 1- Possession of Dangerous Drugs, Stalking = 2.0
(since stalking is worth the most, don't assign points for PODD)
- 2- Criminal Mischief, Arson, Burglary = 1.5
(even though all are in the 1.0 category, add .5 since there are THREE charges)
- 3- Attempted negligent homicide = 5.0
(even though its attempted homicide, look at underlying charge of homicide)