

# OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



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## STATE OF MONTANA

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To: Montana Public Defender Commission  
From: Kristina Neal, Conflict Coordinator  
RE: Report to the Commission

### UPDATES

Conflict cases: For the first quarter of FY 2015, I appointed counsel in an estimated 1,200 cases. This number is a slight increase from last year.

Training and Contract Attorney meetings: Contract Manager, Wendy Johnson, and I traveled to Kalispell and Great Falls for a "meet and greet" with available contract attorneys. We reserved a conference room and made ourselves available to contract attorneys to stop during the lunch hour to meet us and offer comments, suggestions or questions. Besides the meetings with the contract attorneys, we spent the remaining portion of the days observing a law and motion session in each jurisdiction. I also attended the OPD annual conference in Missoula. It was a chance to reconnect with numerous attorneys and also to meet several attorneys that I had yet to meet in person.

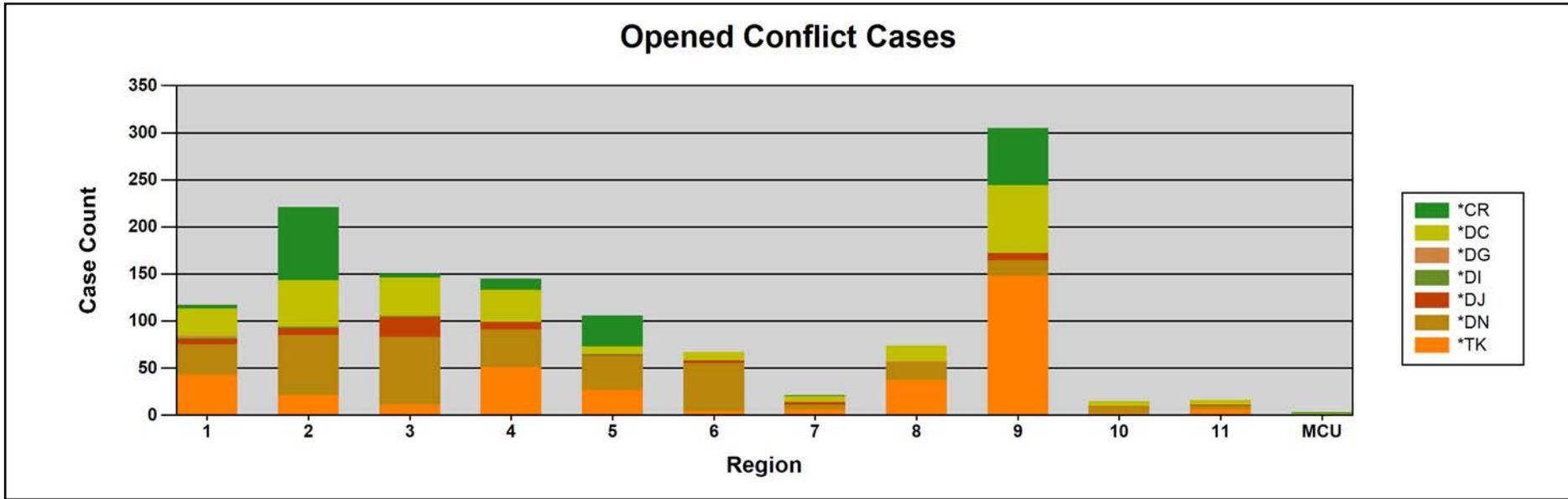
DN update and future promise: Chief Public Defender, Bill Hooks, and I were invited to and attended a child welfare reform discussion hosted by the Casey Family Program. Sarah Corbally, Child and Family Services Division Administrator, presented the current trends in Montana and the Department of Public Health and Human Services' plan to use its federal Title IV-E foster care revenue beyond the scope of traditional foster care placements and instead divert funds to preventive and more intensive services aimed at re-uniting families quicker and with fewer court interventions. We spoke with Sarah after the presentation and were encouraged by the potential benefit this approach will have for our clients. Given this agency's ballooning expenditures in DN cases, this new model provided us with hope for changes and future cooperation.

Summary of Operating Plan: The Conflict Coordinator Office is staffed with me, two part-time assistants, and one conflict attorney. My operating expenditures for fiscal year 2014 were approximately \$5.4 million, with \$5.2 million of this amount in contractor costs. Of the \$5.2 million, approximately \$5 million was attributed to Program 1, and approximately \$200,000 to Program 2. I do not see this amount declining in the 2015 fiscal year.



# Office of the State Public Defender: OPD Opened Conflict Cases by Type Report

Period from: 7/1/2014 through 9/30/2014



	*CR	*DC	*DG	*DI	*DJ	*DN	*TK	Total
Regional Office, Region 1	4	29	2	1	6	32	43	117
Regional Office, Region 2	78	49	0	2	7	64	21	221
Regional Office, Region 3	4	40	1	1	21	72	11	150
Regional Office, Region 4	12	34	0	0	8	40	51	145
Regional Office, Region 5	33	8	0	1	1	36	27	106
Regional Office, Region 6	0	9	0	0	3	51	4	67
Regional Office, Region 7	1	6	0	0	3	5	6	21
Regional Office, Region 8	0	17	1	0	0	19	37	74
Regional Office, Region 9	61	72	0	0	8	16	148	305
Regional Office, Region 10	0	5	0	0	0	8	2	15
Regional Office, Region 11	0	5	0	0	1	4	6	16
Major Crime Unit	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>1,240</b>