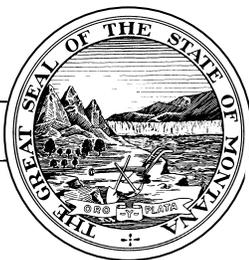


OFFICE OF THE STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER



BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

KRISTINA NEAL
CONFLICT COORDINATOR

STATE OF MONTANA

Phone: (406) 444-0104
Fax: (406) 444-2669
PO Box 200145
Helena, MT 59620-0145

December 7, 2012

To: Montana Public Defender Commission

From: Kristina Neal, Conflict Coordinator

RE: Report to the Commission

UPDATES

Conflict cases: During the last three months, July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, I have appointed counsel in 1,159 cases, or approximately 94 cases per week. (see attached). This is a slight increase from the last quarter, which totaled 1,023 cases. However, it is a significant increase from the similar time period in 2011.

Training: I attended the annual OPD conference and training in Billings in October. This provided me with a chance to meet and discuss, in person, issues with several contract/conflict counsel. I was encouraged by the number of contract attorneys that took advantage of this training opportunity.

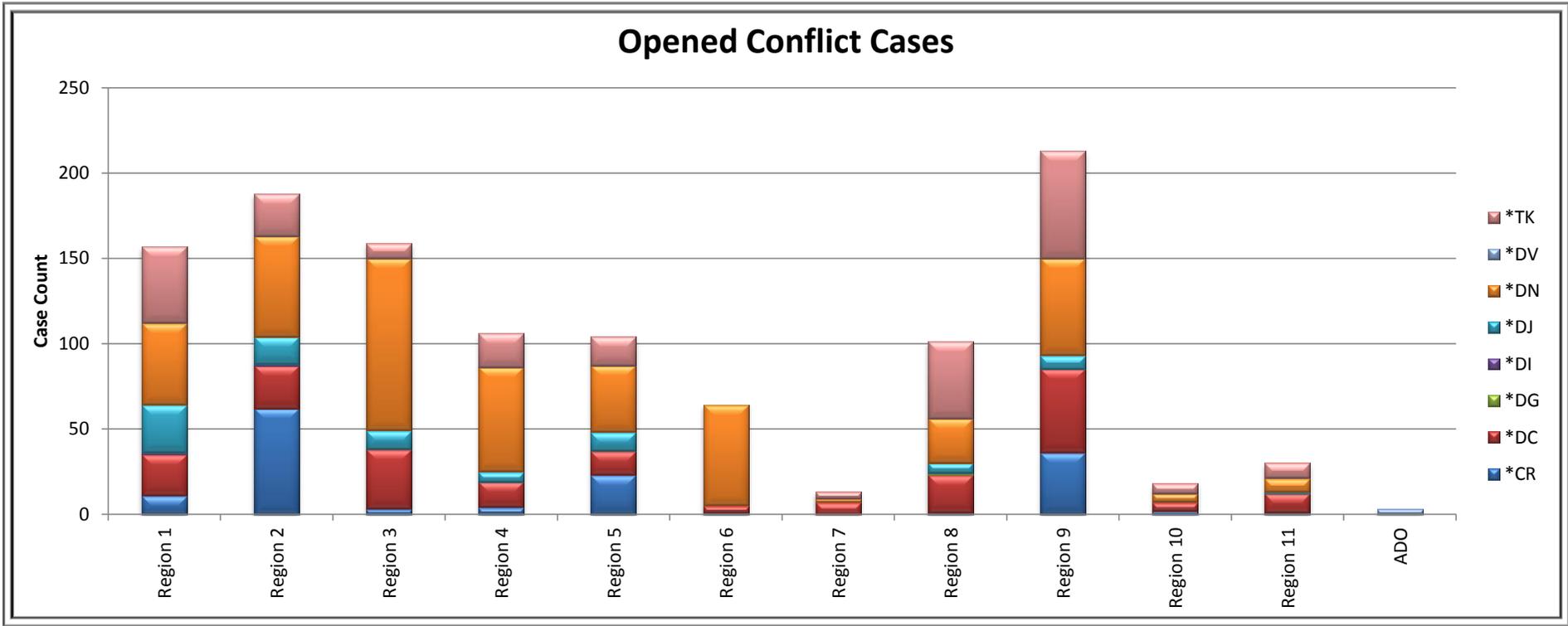
Support Staff: Given the consistent increase in cases being handled by my office, I received approval for a part-time support staff to assist me. Thirty-five applicants applied for the position. I hired Amy Clark. Ms. Clark began work on November 19, 2012. Ms. Clark has years of office management experience and experience within state government. I am excited to have her working with me and believe that she will be a valuable asset to the public defender system.

Upcoming Legislative Session: With the assistance of Harry Freebourn, we have submitted a decision package to the legislature to increase my position to a full-time position, increase the administrative assistant position to a full-time position, and hire another attorney to work for the conflict coordinator. This attorney would handle all of the state's postconviction work and serve as a back-up for me.



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

Period from: 7/1/2012 through 9/30/2012 11:59:59 PM



	*CR	*DC	*DG	*DI	*DJ	*DN	*DV	*TK	Total
Region 1	11	24	0	1	28	48	0	45	157
Region 2	62	25	0	1	16	59	0	25	188
Region 3	3	35	0	0	11	101	0	9	159
Region 4	4	15	0	0	6	61	0	20	106
Region 5	23	14	0	0	11	39	0	17	104
Region 6	1	4	0	0	0	59	0	0	64
Region 7	0	7	0	0	0	2	0	4	13
Region 8	1	22	1	0	6	26	0	45	101
Region 9	36	49	0	0	8	57	0	63	213
Region 10	2	5	0	0	0	5	0	6	18
Region 11	1	11	0	0	1	8	0	9	30
ADO	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
Total	144	211	1	2	87	465	3	243	1,156