

Department: District Attorney

Program Contact: Kirsten Snowden

Program Offer Type: Operating

Program Offer Stage: Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:
Executive Summary

The Pretrial Unit deputy district attorneys (DDAs) are responsible for reviewing and issuing all misdemeanor cases other than those involving domestic violence. The Pretrial Unit also coordinates all judicial appeal cases, civil litigation, post-conviction cases, felony arraignments, habeas proceedings, fugitive and extradition matters, out of state material witness cases, public records requests, and appeals. Pretrial also oversees the administration of the grand jury process and body-worn camera review.

Program Description

The Pretrial Unit handles the first and last contacts that most individuals accused of a crime have with the judicial system. MCDA is mindful of that role and view these important decisions through an equity lens, cognizant of the disparate impacts on different parts of the community as victims of crime and criminal defendants. Pretrial DDAs review all non-domestic violence misdemeanor charges referred to MCDA and determine whether or not to initiate prosecution. On average this is about 1,000 cases per month. On all felony matters, a Pretrial DDA appears at arraignment and presents the State's position as to what level of restraint on a defendant's liberty, if any, is appropriate prior to trial. MCDA recognizes this as an extraordinary responsibility and often the most critical point of a case in terms of immediate collateral consequences on defendants who may or may not ever be convicted. Pretrial DDAs work to promote consistency in positions on release and ensure just and fair outcomes.

After criminal case convictions, the Pretrial Unit evaluates and, where necessary, litigates post-conviction relief cases involving claims of wrongful conviction or ineffective assistance of counsel. Pretrial also manages the steadily increasing flow of applications to seal criminal records.

The East County Courthouse is staffed daily by a Pretrial DDA who is responsible for all misdemeanor trials at that location as well as staffing Community Court, the Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants (DUII) Diversion docket, and Expedited DUII resolutions.

Pretrial handles many other duties that do not fit neatly into a trial unit, including fugitive and extradition matters, public records requests and appeals, criminal appellate coordination, administration and training for all three grand jury panels in Multnomah County, and advice and legal consultation with other attorneys on a wide range of topics.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Performance Measure	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budgeted	FY24 Estimate	FY25 Target
Output	Misdemeanor cases reviewed for prosecution	4,626	5,000	5,912	6,000
Outcome	Number of fugitive cases, extraditions, public records requests and public records appeals.	966	874	929	950

Performance Measures Descriptions

Legal / Contractual Obligation

ORS 138.081 - Appeals; ORS Chapter 34 - Writs of Habeas Corpus; ORS Chapters 132 and 135 - Grand Jury and pre-trial and felony arraignments.

ORS 8.670 - Proceedings before magistrates and grand jury. The district attorney shall institute proceedings before magistrates for the arrest of persons charged with or reasonably suspected of public offenses, when the district attorney has information that any such offense has been committed, and attend upon and advise the grand jury when required.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2024	2024	2025	2025
Personnel	\$2,794,186	\$0	\$2,704,462	\$0
Contractual Services	\$34,000	\$0	\$34,000	\$0
Materials & Supplies	\$34,155	\$0	\$39,155	\$0
Internal Services	\$934,048	\$0	\$423,186	\$0
Total GF/non-GF	\$3,796,389	\$0	\$3,200,803	\$0
Program Total:	\$3,796,389		\$3,200,803	
Program FTE	19.10	0.00	16.10	0.00

Program Revenues				
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was: FY 2024: 15204A Pretrial

Moved 2.00 FTE from this program offer to PO 15021 JIU: A Legal Assistant 2 position and a DDA 3 position.

Moved 1.00 FTE DDA 1 position from PO 15206 SPU to this program offer.

Moved 1.00 FTE Office Assistant 2 position from this program offer to PO 15004 Records/Discovery

Cut 2.00 FTE Office Assistant 2 positions in order to meet FY 2025 general fund constraint.