

# 1999 ~ 2000 Annual Report



**Multnomah County Attorneys**  
**October 2000**



OFFICE OF  
MULTNOMAH COUNTY ATTORNEY

THOMAS SPONSLER  
*County Attorney*

SANDRA N. DUFFY  
*Chief Assistant*

1120 S.W. FIFTH AVENUE, SUITE 1530  
PORTLAND, OREGON 97204-1977

FAX 988-3377  
(503) 988-3138

SCOTT ERIK ASPHAUG  
SUSAN DUNAWAY  
KATIE GAETJENS  
PATRICK HENRY  
GERALD H. ITKIN  
JENNY M. MORF  
MATTHEW O. RYAN  
KATHRYN A. SHORT  
AGNES SOWLE  
JOHN S. THOMAS  
JACQUELINE A. WEBER  
*Assistants*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Board of County Commissioners  
Beverly Stein, Chair  
Diane Linn, Commissioner  
Lisa Naito, Commissioner  
Serena Cruz, Commissioner  
Sharron Kelley, Commissioner

**FROM:** Thomas Sponsler

**DATE:** October 31, 2000

**RE:** 1999-2000 Annual Report

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***INTRODUCTION***

Our office has thirteen attorneys and eight dedicated staff people. We provide services to the county officers and the various departments. This *1999-2000 Annual Report* summarizes the legal service hours provided to county clients.

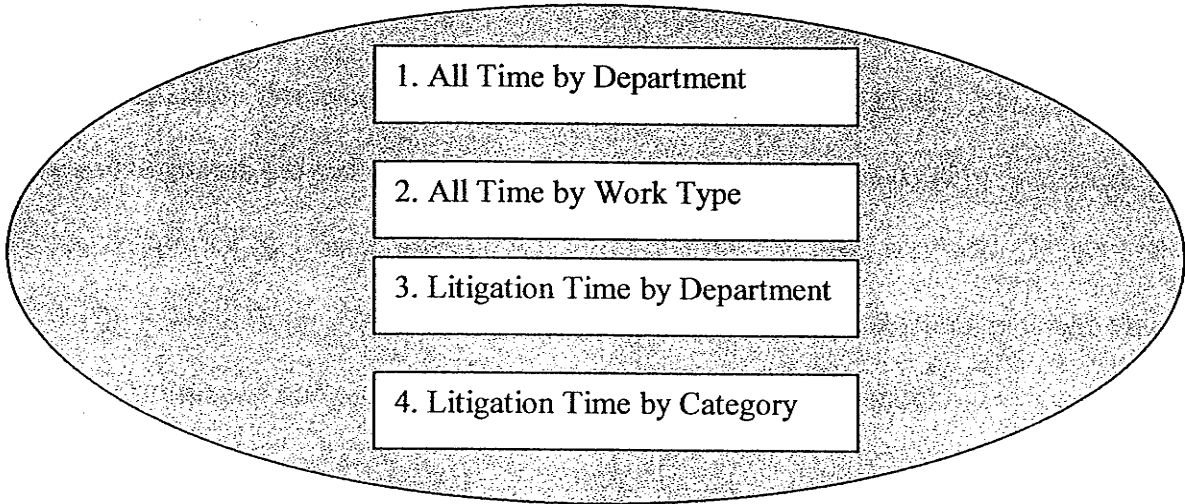
During the fiscal year 1999-2000, we provided 21,228.20 hours of direct legal services for litigation, legal consultation, legal document preparation and review and client training.

We provided advice to all County departments regarding labor and employment issues. We worked with the Human Resources staff, supervisors and managers, and Labor Relations to resolve employment-related matters. We also responded to discrimination complaints filed with Oregon's Bureau of Labor and Industries and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

We provided training directly to supervisors and managers, as well as through the HR Forum. This training allowed us to educate managers about specific legal issues before they become complaints. We believe this helps reduce future claims lawsuits.

**GRAPHS**

Graphs 1-4 outline how we spent our legal service hours.



Graph 1 shows that the greatest amount of time was devoted to the Sheriff's Office. During the fiscal year, there have been 204 claims opened for the Sheriff's Office, a slight increase from the previous fiscal year.

Graph 2 depicts the hours expended by the various work types. Litigation consumes 64% of our time.

Graph 3 shows litigation time by department almost half of our litigation hours to go Sheriff cases.

Graph 4 depicts the litigation hours expended by the work category. This graph shows that Employment and Civil Rights receive most of our time.

Chart 5 shows our Top 20 Cases by Litigation Time. Pages 5A – 5F consists of a brief synopsis of the cases and how many legal hours were spent in the fiscal year.

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Graphs 6A and 6B depict Multnomah County's Liability showing losses paid by claims opened in this fiscal year by the different departments.

Despite the national trend toward more litigation<sup>1</sup>, the County has restrained liability losses even as the number of case filings against the County has grown. Aggressive defense of claims, cases and our practice of refusing to pay nuisance value have been rewarded.

***EFFECTIVE RATE***

The effective rate paid for each hour of legal services is \$82.83. This rate saves the County and taxpayers a significant amount of money from the rates charged by law firms. 81.4% of all hours reported by County Attorneys went to direct client legal services. (Direct Services (21,228.20) ÷ Total Hours (26,086.30)). This means that less than 20% of reported time was spent on administrative and professional services. See the following chart:

Total Hours Reported		26,086.30
Direct Service	(81.4%)	21,228.20
Non-Direct Service	(18.6%)	4,858.10
Administrative	(13.6%)	3,552.10
Professional	( 5.0%)	1,306.00
<b>14 Lawyer FTE Average Hours</b>		<b>1,516.30</b>
Office Budget		\$1,840,679.00
Less Professional Services		\$81,492.00
Net		\$1,758,417.00
Divided by Direct Service Hours		21,228.20
<b>Effective Hourly Rate</b>		<b>\$82.83</b>

***PROLAW***

ProLaw is a new computer database the office obtained during the fiscal year. This database will permit us to manage all of our matters, contacts and documents, in all our practice areas. It will combine case management and billing and accounting in a single electronic system.

<sup>1</sup> According to a recent survey of the U.S. District Court, there has been a 500% increase in case filings over the last twelve years.

ProLaw will be our complete document management system, including full-text indexing, document shadowing and document assembly. It will track word processing documents as well as images, spreadsheets, videos, audio, charts, literally anything created in the performance of legal services. We expect to have ProLaw up and running prior to our office's move to the Multnomah Building in early 2001.

***CLOSING***

We are now staffed to handle the present claim and litigation levels<sup>2</sup>. This allows us to continue our current strong county representation and spend more time on prevention activities in areas of historic risk. We report to and meet regularly with the Sheriff, the department that uses the largest share of our resources. We are working to more effectively spot areas warranting legal attention and to move effectively deploy County resources.

We continue to look for ways to improve our services and better meet the County's legal needs. Our mission is to help achieve the RESULTS goal of high quality, customer-focused service and good value for the tax dollar.

If you would like any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

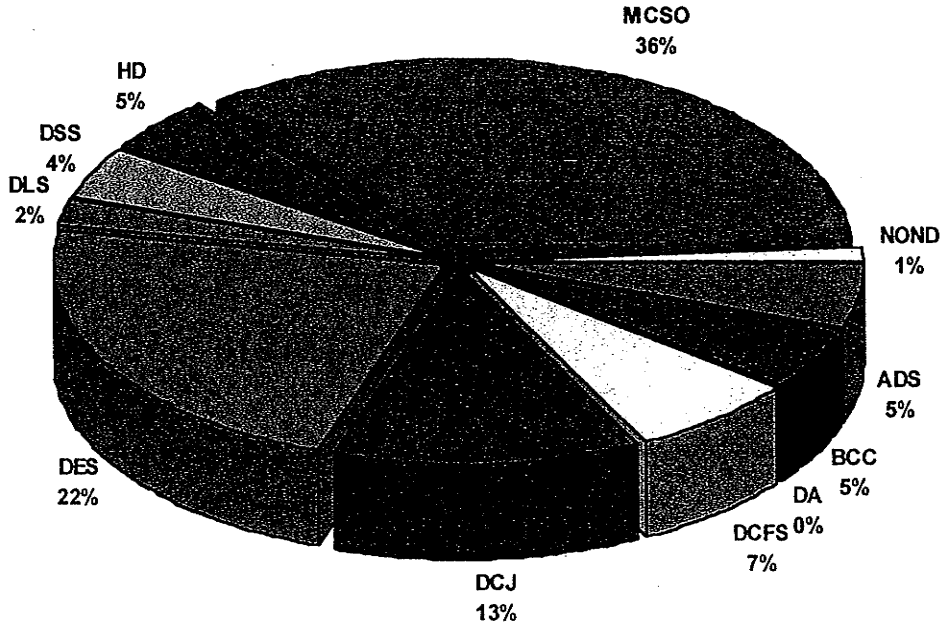
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<sup>2</sup> Seven of our professional staff spent more than half their time on litigation.

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# All Time by Department

7/1/99 through 6/30/00

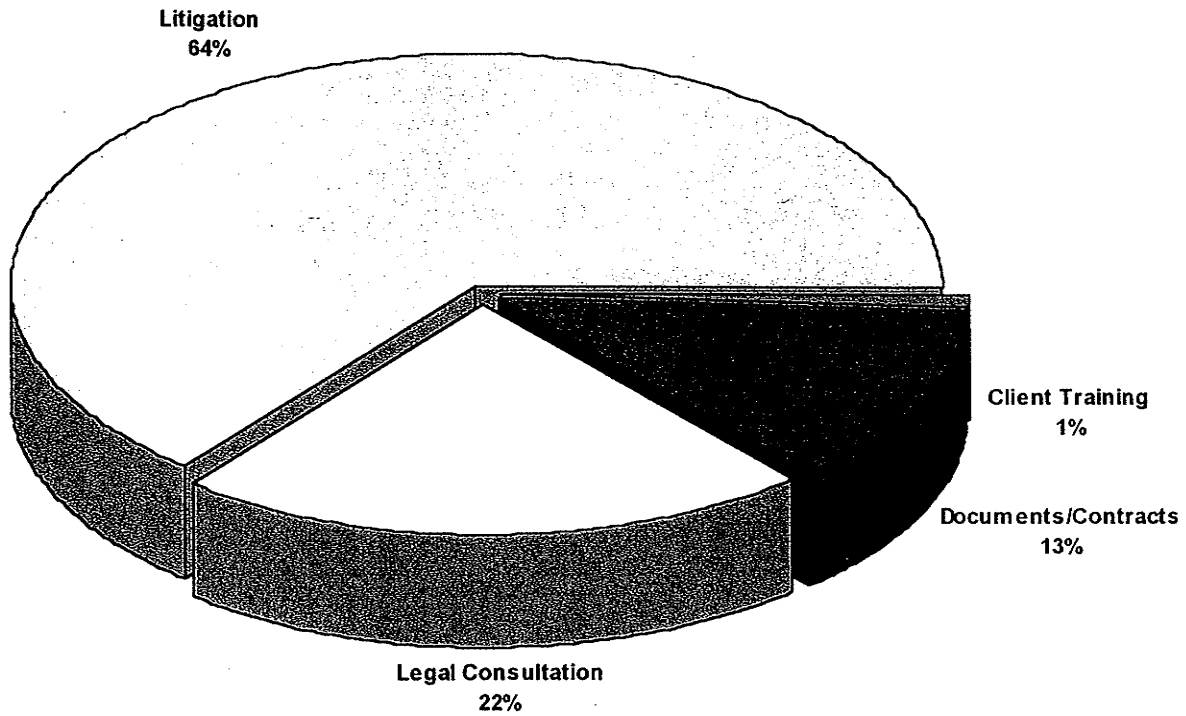


	<u>Hours</u>
Sheriff's Office	6,746.10
Environmental Services	5,017.80
Community Justice	2,383.20
Community & Family Services	1,619.60
Health	1,223.50
Board of Commissioners	1,185.60
Aging Services	1,173.80
Support Services	988.80
Library	551.40
NonDepartmental	311.20
District Attorney's Office	27.20
	<b>21,228.20</b>

Graph 1

# All Time by Work Type

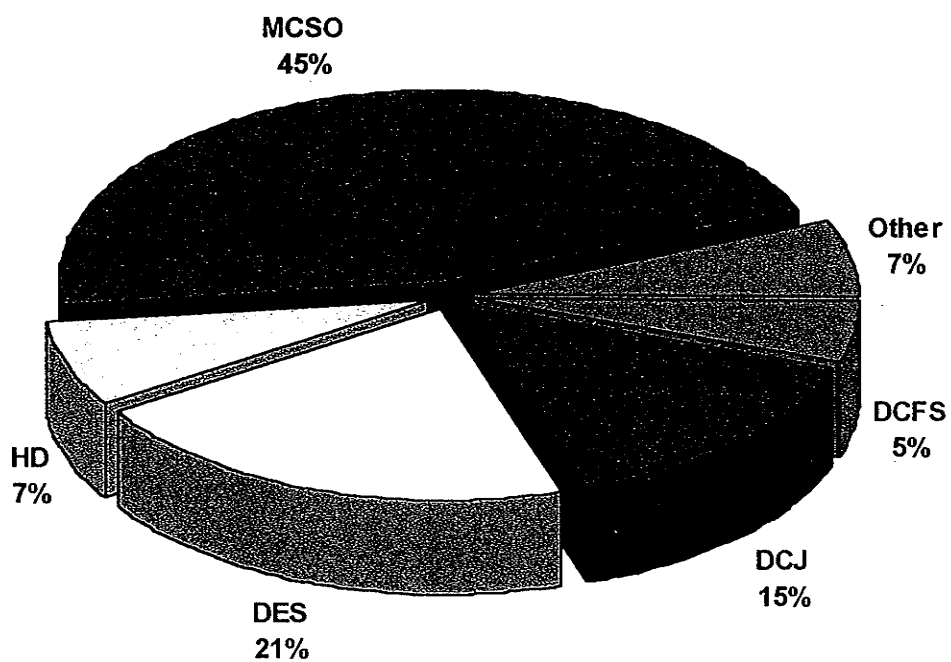
7/1/99 through 6/30/00



<u>Work Type</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Litigation	12,254.30
Legal Consultation	5,561.40
Documents/Contracts	3,229.00
Client Training	183.50
	<b>21,228.20</b>

# Litigation Time by Department

7/1/99 through 6/30/00

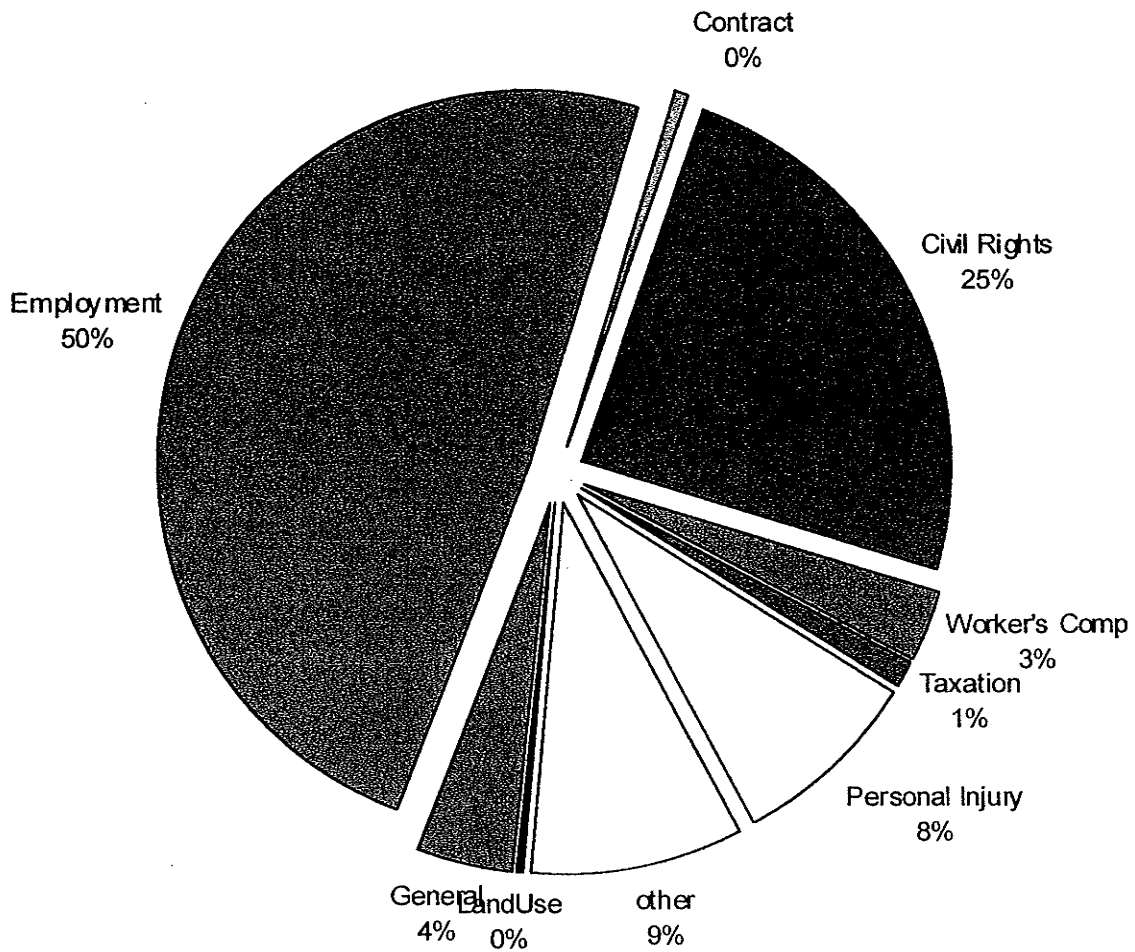


Department	Time
MCSO	5,568.60
DES	2,551.40
DCJ	1,800.60
HD	882.30
Other	799.10
DCFS	652.30
	<b>12,254.30</b>



# Litigation Time by Category

7/1/99 through 6/30/00



<u>Category</u>	<u>Time (in hours)</u>
Employment	6,232.00
Civil Rights	3,070.70
other	1,150.20
Personal Injury	1,074.70
General	542.00
Worker's Comp	393.20
Taxation	130.10
Contract	41.00
LandUse	10.20
	<b>12,644.10</b>

# Litigation Time - Top 20 Cases

7/1/99 through 6/30/00

**360 total open litigation files**

<i>Community Justice</i>			4 of 30 open litigation files	Total	% of Dept's Lit
0004-99	AS	Landis, David D.		939.50	
0073-98	AS	Crumbley, Kevin v. Multnomah County		289.20	
0293-93	SAD	Mcalpine Robert V Multnomah County, Et Al		236.50	
0079-98	JW	Multnomah County Employees Union (Local 88) v. Multnomah Cou		131.90	
				<b>1,597.10</b>	<b>1,800.60</b> 88.7%

<i>Environmental Services</i>			4 of 105 open litigation files	Total	% of Dept's Lit
0249-99	SD	Frevach Land Co. (Fred's Marina) v. Multnomah County		556.80	
0373-99	SD	SFG Income Fund, LP v. May and Multnomah County		380.50	
0388-98	JL	Multnomah County v. Geoffrey Thompson, et al		264.50	
0358-98	GI	Donnelly, Shirley v. Multnomah County		171.40	
				<b>1,373.20</b>	<b>2,551.40</b> 53.8%

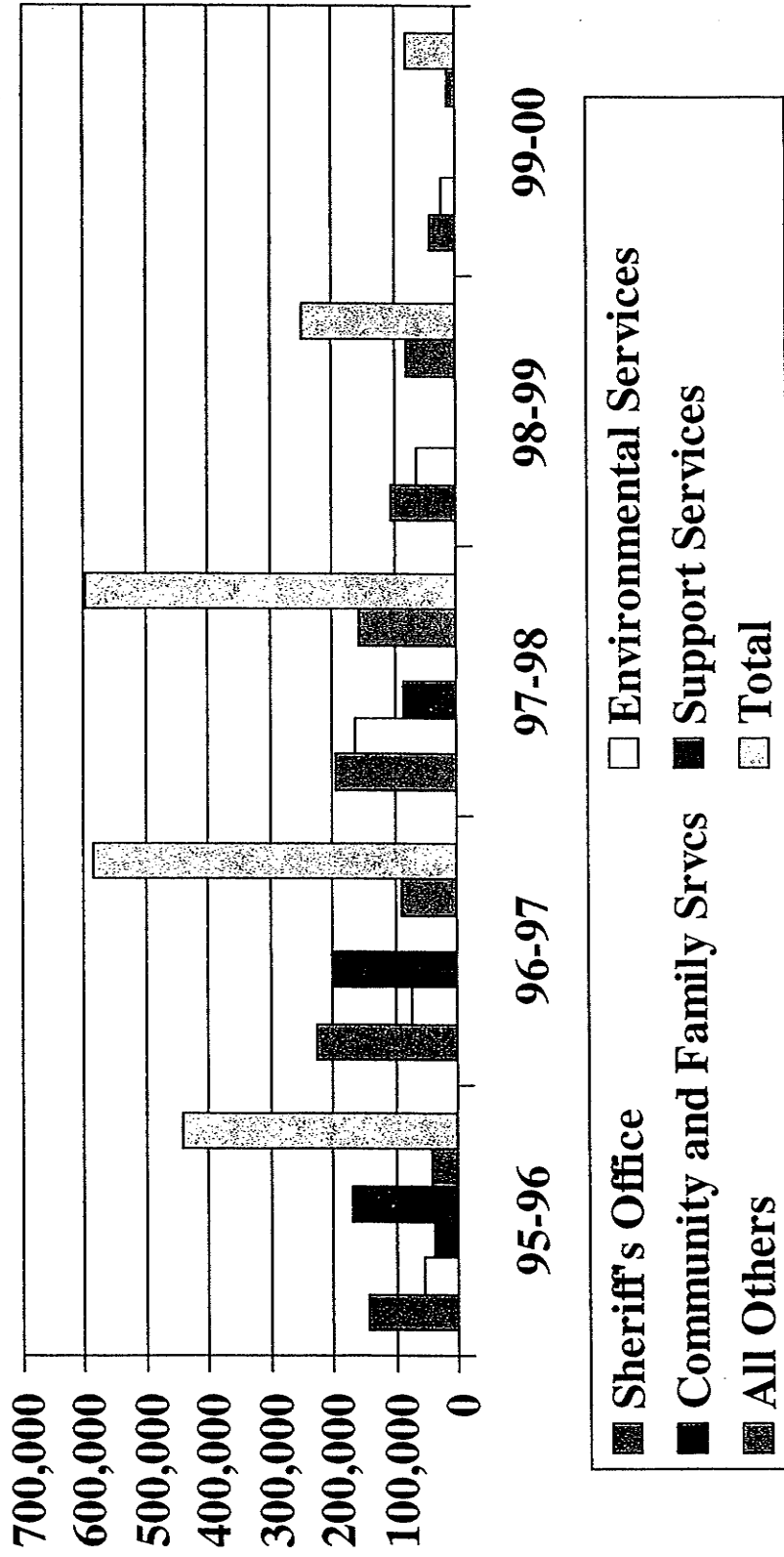
<i>Health</i>			2 of 30 open litigation files	Total	% of Dept's Lit
0416-98	SEA	Klarquist, Peter S. v. Multnomah County, Robert Salisbury and Riek		560.90	
0078-99	GI	Ollis, Floyd E. v. Multnomah County, et al.		108.20	
				<b>669.10</b>	<b>882.30</b> 75.8%

<i>Sheriff's Office</i>			10 of 119 open litigation files	Total	% of Dept's Lit
0548-97	GI	Gafford, Reginald Brian (Death Investigation)		1,806.90	
0246-98	AS	Pool, Vera Lt.		486.90	
0336-98	SAD	Canell, Alvin Howard v. Multnomah County		410.10	
0171-99	AS	Johnson, Karen		249.50	
0189-99	SEA	Rohrscheib, Michael A. v. Multnomah County Sheriff's Office, et al.		210.80	
0153-99	AS	JANAL, RIKKI V. ARAMARK SERVICES, INC.		198.60	
0111-99	SAD	LUND, Gary v. Noelle, et al.		154.60	
0185-99	GI	Hall, David Edward v. Multnomah County and State of Oregon		148.80	
0200-97	JW	Jordan Gary V Multnomah County		124.10	
0259-99	SAD	Richardson, Brian A. vs. MCSO et al		100.30	
				<b>3,890.60</b>	<b>5,568.60</b> 69.9%

Total Litigation Hours for these Cases	<b>7,530.00</b>
Total Litigation Hours - All Departments	<b>12,254.30</b>
% of Total Litigation Hours for these Cases	61.4%

# Multnomah County Liability

Loss Paid by Claims Opened in Fiscal Year as of 6/30/00

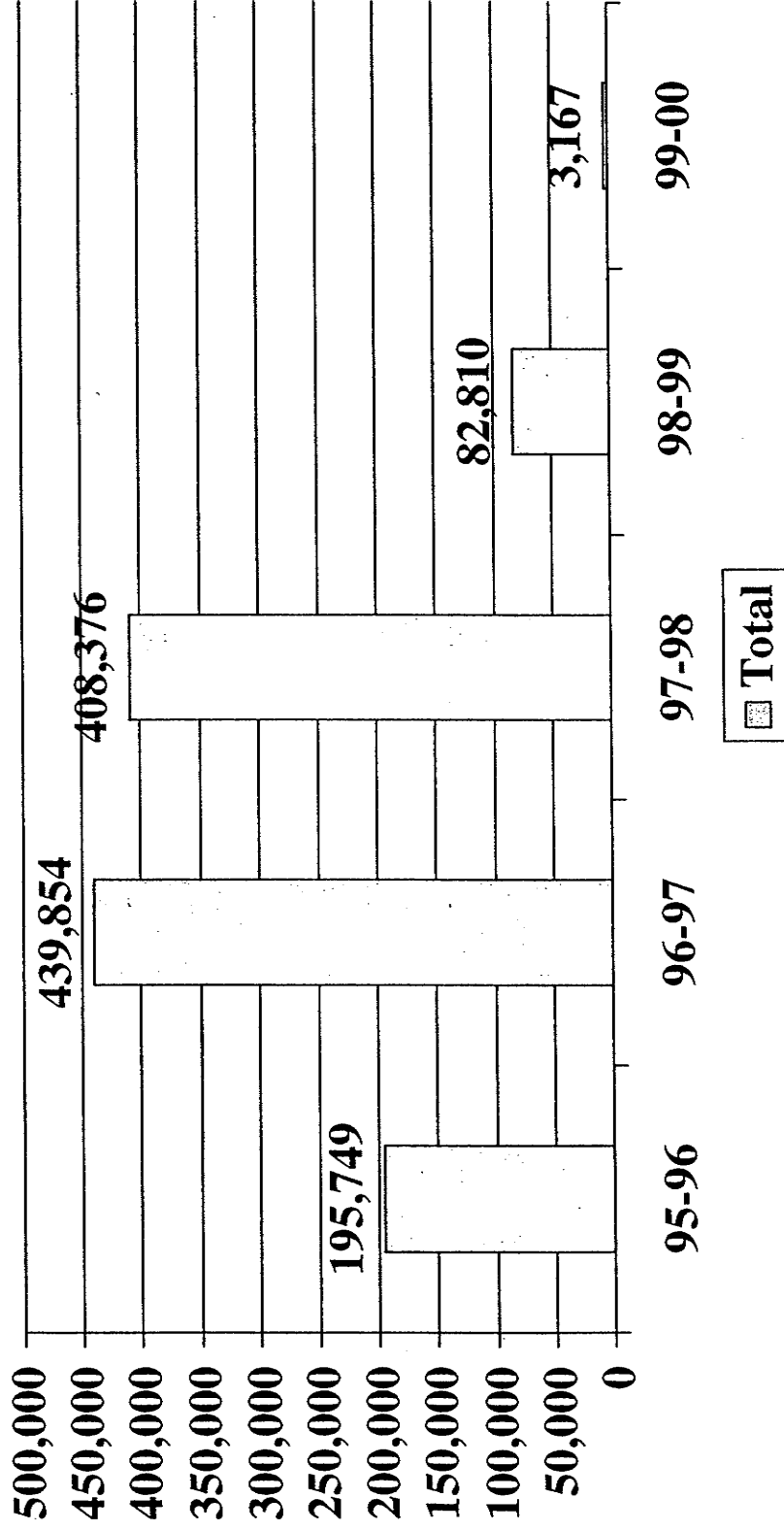


1998-99 and 1999-00 years are immature, statute of limitations has not run

# Multnomah County Liability

## Litigated Claims

Loss Paid by Claims Opened in Fiscal Year as of 6/30/00



1998-99 and 1999-00 years are immature, statute of limitations has not run