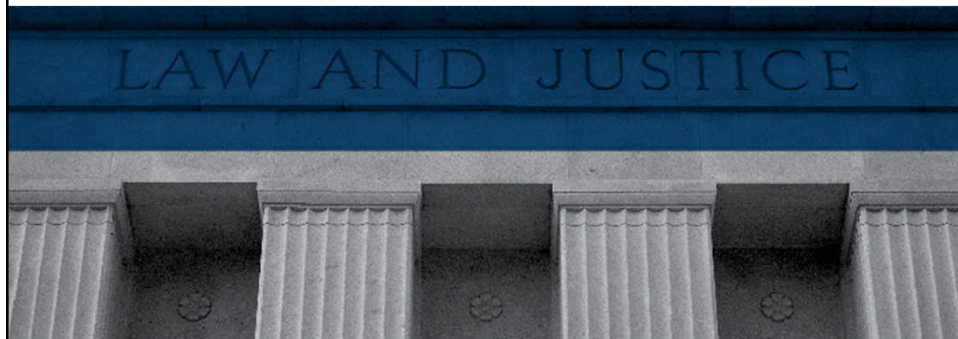




NORTH CAROLINA
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
of the COURTS

Judicial Department Workload Formulas and Tools

January 12, 2012
Presented by Gregg Stahl, Senior Deputy Director



Judicial Department Workload Formulas

Background

- Use of workload indicators dates back to over a decade ago
- First collaborated with the National Center for State Courts in 2007 to convert workload indicators to workload formulas for clerks of superior court, magistrates, and district court judges
- Prior to workload formulas, staffing needs were addressed based upon subjective decision-making
- General Statutes set for the numbers of judges, assistant district attorneys, and minimum number of magistrates
- Workload formulas provide an objective means for projecting staffing needs



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Judicial Department Workload Formulas

Staffing Resources Needed

- Data driven
- Focuses on most common work performed
- Provides credibility (National Center for State Courts methodology)
- Requested by the General Assembly
- Provides tools for evenhanded analysis of independent locally elected hiring authorities

Management of Resources

- Dynamic calculations are revised often and vacancies are taken into consideration
- Tools are very effective for relative resourcing comparisons

Judicial Department Workload Formula Approach

Committee directed, approved by the constituent group

Case weight approach based on time studies used for:

- Clerks of superior court
- Magistrates
- District court judges
- Superior court judges
- Family court case coordinators
- Assistant district attorneys and victim witness/legal assistants
- Custody mediators

Judicial Department Workload Approach

Ratio of judges to support staff/TCA for:

- District court judicial support staff
- Superior court judicial support staff and TCAs

Caseload based on National Court Appointed Special Advocates standard for:

- Guardian ad Litem staff

Developing a Workload Formula

- Strong participation by all judicial official groups in time studies
- Determined preliminary case weights (*i.e.*, what is)
- Modest quality adjustments to preliminary case weights to determine final case weights (*i.e.*, what should be)



Case Types

Assistant District Attorneys Example

- Traffic
- Misdemeanor (other than
DWI or drug offense)
- DWI
- Drug offense (other than
trafficking)
- Drug trafficking
- Other felony F, G, H, I
- Other felony A, B, C, D, E
- Sex crime
- Homicide (other than
first-degree murder)
- First-degree murder
(capital or non-capital)

Final Case Weights

Assistant District Attorneys Example

| | |
|--|--|
| 6.5 minutes traffic | 242 minutes Other felony F, G, H, I |
| 20 minutes misdemeanor (other than DWI or drug offense) | 495 minutes other felony A, B, C, D, E |
| 67 minutes DWI | 1,112 minutes sex crime |
| 61 minutes drug offense (other than trafficking) | 1,589 minutes homicide (other than first-degree murder) |
| 518 minutes drug trafficking | 10,172 minutes first-degree murder (capital or non-capital) |
| | 3,649 minutes generic murder |

Staffing Needs Calculations

$$\frac{\text{Number of filings (defendants) x case weight}}{\text{Case-related staff year value}}$$

2011 – 2013 Biennium Expansion Budget Request Major Workload Groups

- 354 additional clerks of superior court (assistant and deputy)
- 69 additional district court judges
- 100 additional assistant district attorneys
- 47.5 additional victim witness/legal assistants

Superior Court Judge Need

Exhibit 10. Statewide Judge Need, North Carolina Superior Court

| <i>Case Type</i> | <i>Filings</i> | <i>x</i> | <i>Case Weight (minutes)</i> | <i>=</i> | <i>Workload (minutes)</i> |
|--|----------------|----------|------------------------------|----------|---------------------------|
| Homicide | 947 | x | 946 | = | 895,862 |
| Sex Offender List Offense (felony and misdemeanor) | 3,210 | x | 131 | = | 420,510 |
| Habitual Offender | 3,337 | x | 91 | = | 303,667 |
| Felony Assault/Robbery With Dangerous Weapon | 4,811 | x | 117 | = | 562,887 |
| Felony Controlled Substance | 16,846 | x | 40 | = | 673,840 |
| Other Felony | 31,517 | x | 40 | = | 1,260,680 |
| Misdemeanor/Other | 17,832 | x | 32 | = | 570,624 |
| Contract | 6,766 | x | 86 | = | 581,876 |
| Collect on Accounts | 2,860 | x | 27 | = | 77,220 |
| Negligence | 8,345 | x | 104 | = | 867,880 |
| Real Property | 1,524 | x | 183 | = | 278,892 |
| Administrative Appeal/Other | 8,535 | x | 31 | = | 264,585 |
| Total Workload (minutes) | | | | | 6,758,523 |
| Year Value (minutes) | | | | | ÷ 65,100 |
| Total Division Judge Need (FTE) | | | | | 103.8 |
| Senior Resident Adjustment | | | | | + 5.0 |
| Business Court Judge Need | | | | | + 3.0 |
| Total Superior Court Judge Need (FTE) | | | | | = 111.8 |
| Resident Judges | | | | | - 97.0 |
| Special Judges | | | | | - 15.0 |
| Net Judge Need (FTE) | | | | | - 0.2 |

Questions?



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