

OKLAHOMA

INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM



2025 Annual Report

... to provide people who are indigent with legal representation comparable to that obtainable by those who can afford counsel and to do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Oklahoma

Indigent Defense System



J. KEVIN STITT
GOVERNOR

TRICIA EVEREST
SECRETARY OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DEBBIE MADDOX
Executive Director

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DEBBIE MADDOX
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



J. KEVIN STITT
GOVERNOR

STATE OF OKLAHOMA
OKLAHOMA INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM

BOARD MEMBERS

TOMMY ADLER, ESQ.,
CHAIR
Adler Markoff & Associates
9211 Lake Hefner Parkway
Suite 104
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

KENNETH E. WRIGHT III, ESQ.,
VICE CHAIR
Davis & Thompson, PLLC
314 S. 5th Street
Jay, OK 74346

CAREYLYN GUTHRIE, ESQ.
5G Law Firm, PLLC
1902 9th Street
Woodward, OK 73801

GARY HIGGINBOTHAM, ESQ.
500 N Walker Ave #120
Oklahoma City, OK 73102

THEODORE BRETT SWAB, ESQ.
Swab & Stall, PA
2021 South Lewis Ave.
Suite 520
Tulsa, OK 74104

September 19, 2025

TO THE HONORABLE J. KEVIN STITT
HONORABLE LONNIE PAXTON
HONORABLE KYLE HILBERT
HONORABLE DUSTIN P. ROWE
HONORABLE GARY L. LUMPKIN

Enclosed is a report concerning the duties, activities, and accomplishments of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, in accordance with 22 O.S. § 1355.3(B) and 22 O.S. § 1355.4(C)(14).

The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System is grateful for the support the agency received during Fiscal Year 2025 from the Governor and his staff, from the Legislature, and from the Judiciary.

The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System thanks the agency's staff and contract attorneys, investigators, administrators, support staff, and expert service providers for their profound and unwavering service to our clients. Their efforts enable the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System to serve the interests of justice through our skilled client advocacy and our vigorous defense of our shared constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Debbie Maddox
Executive Director

◆ Board Members

TOMMY ADLER, ESQ., CHAIR
Adler Markoff & Associates
9211 Lake Hefner Pkwy
Suite 104
Oklahoma City, OK 73120

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VICE CHAIR
DAVIS & THOMPSON, PLLC
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Tulsa, OK 74104

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5G Law Firm, PLLC
1902 9th Street
Woodward, OK 73801

GARY D. HIGGINBOTHAM
500 N WALKER AVE #120
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73102



Past Board Members

(In Alphabetical Order)

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Chapter 1

◆ Introduction

The mission of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System is to provide people who are indigent with legal representation comparable to that obtainable by those who can afford counsel and to do so in the most cost-effective manner possible.

OIDS fulfills most of the State's obligations under the Oklahoma and United States Constitutions to provide trial, appellate and capital post-conviction criminal defense services to persons who have been judicially determined to be entitled to legal counsel at State expense. The Oklahoma Indigent Defense Act, 22 O.S. §§ 1355, *et seq.*, which created the agency, sets forth the duties and responsibilities of the agency, the Indigent Defense System Board and the OIDS Executive Director.

The agency is governed by a five-person Board. Each member is appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of the Oklahoma Senate, for a five-year term. The agency consists of three program areas: the General Operations Program, the Trial Program, and the Appellate Program.

The Trial Program consists of the Non-Capital Trial Division and two capital trial divisions: Capital Trial Norman and Capital Trial Tulsa. The Appellate Program consists of the Appellate East and Appellate West Divisions. In years past, the Appellate Program consisted of the General Appeals Division, the Homicide Direct Appeals Division, and the Capital Post-Conviction

Division. These divisions have been reorganized into the Appellate East and West Divisions.

OIDS is appointed by the trial and appellate courts of Oklahoma after an indigence determination is made by the court. OIDS is subject to appointment to provide trial representation in criminal cases in 75 of Oklahoma's 77 counties, and in all 77 counties at the appellate level. During Fiscal Year 2025, OIDS contracted with private Oklahoma-licensed attorneys to handle 100% of the indigent non-capital trial caseload in 39 counties. In 36 counties, staff attorneys handled most of the indigent caseload. Private attorneys or OIDS Roving Attorneys handle most of the System's conflict cases. In death penalty cases and non-capital appeals, attorneys employed by OIDS are assigned cases after OIDS has been appointed by district courts or the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals.

OIDS represented a total of 47,068 court appointments in Fiscal Year 2025. The numerical breakdown by division is as follows:

NON-CAPITAL TRIAL	
<i>Staff</i>	20,915
<i>County Contracts</i>	25,039
<i>Conflicts</i>	398
CAPITAL TRIAL – NORMAN	18
CAPITAL TRIAL – TULSA	15
APPELLATE PROGRAM	682
EXECUTIVE DIVISION CONFLICTS	1
<i>TOTAL</i>	<u>47,068</u>

Given the nature of criminal cases, most span more than one fiscal year. In complex cases, such as death penalty cases, OIDS may represent a client for three or more years. Accordingly, the total number of cases handled during a fiscal year includes appointments pending from prior fiscal years in addition to the current year's court appointments.

The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System Continues to Keep Gideon's Promise.

The United States Supreme Court's decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 372 U.S. 355 (1963), turned 62 years old in fiscal year 2025. In this case, a unanimous court held that states are required to provide legal counsel to indigent defendants charged with felonies. In 1967, the Supreme Court held that states had an obligation to provide counsel to indigent juvenile defendants. Finally, in 1972, in *Argersinger v. Hamlin*, 407 U.S. 25 (1972), the Supreme Court held that states are obliged to provide counsel to indigents charged with misdemeanors.

The legacy of the Gideon decision and its progeny is a promise from our nation and our states individually and collectively to each person in this country. These cases articulate our nation's and our state's promise that no person's freedom should be placed in jeopardy of criminal prosecution without the necessary benefit of a lawyer committed to that person's legal defense and advocacy.

United States Supreme Court Justice Hugo Black put it this way, "[L]awyers in criminal courts are necessities, not luxuries. The right of one charged with crime to counsel may not be deemed fundamental and essential to fair trials in some countries, but it is in ours. From the very beginning, our state and national constitutions and laws have laid great emphasis on procedural and substantive safeguards designed to ensure fair trial before impartial

tribunals in which every defendant stands equal before the law. This noble ideal cannot be realized if the poor man charged with crime has to face his accuser without a lawyer to assist him."

In the greater part of Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System is charged with keeping Gideon's promise. (We share this honor with the Oklahoma and Tulsa County Public Defenders.) Every employee of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System plays a vital role in enabling the agency to serve our clients.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the people who worked for and contracted with the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System defended the constitutional rights of indigent Oklahomans with skill, dedication, and honor. In doing so, they defended everyone's constitutional rights and kept Gideon's promise. The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System will continue to keep Gideon's promise as we work to safeguard our shared constitutional values.

Chapter 2

◆ General Operations Program

EXECUTIVE DIVISION

The Executive Division is charged with the responsibility of managing and operating the agency and implementing the Indigent Defense Act. By statute, the Executive Director is selected by and serves at the pleasure of the agency's governing Board.

To aid the Executive Director in the implementation of the Indigent Defense Act and agency operations, the Executive Division is staffed with administrative and finance personnel. OIDS provides legal representation through the services of staff members, and by contracting with private attorneys and expert service providers. At the end of the fiscal year, OIDS employed 174 full-time equivalent staff members at its main offices in Norman and its satellite offices in Altus, Clinton, El Reno, Enid, Guymon, Lawton, Norman, Okmulgee, Poteau, Pryor, Sapulpa, and Woodward. On July 1, 2025, OIDS opened a satellite office in Claremore to represent Rogers County clients.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the agency entered 130 new professional services contracts with private attorneys and expert service providers to furnish defense services in court-appointed cases, in addition to administering 107 contracts carried over from the previous fiscal year. The Executive Division services these contracts in addition to

providing support services to the agency's attorneys and investigators.

The Executive Division also administers professional training opportunities for our attorneys and support staff. FY-2025 saw the continuation of attorney and support staff training opportunities through our internal training program, which was reinstated in FY-2024. Training Coordinator, Katie Taber, coordinated multiple in-house and externally hosted conferences and seminars. Focusing on technological and administrative functions, the Executive division hosted a two-day administrative training in December 2024 for all Legal Secretaries, Paralegals and Office Aides to review standard operating procedures. Additionally, Ms. Taber worked with OIDS Division Chiefs to host two in-house continuing legal education (CLE) seminars: 'From Trial to Appellate' seminar in October 2024 and 'Juvenile Training Day' in April 2025. In July 2025, the agency was approved for presumptive approval from the Oklahoma Bar Association, which will allow the agency to host more in-house CLE events to provide local training opportunities to our staff and other legal entities in the state of Oklahoma.

In FY-2025, Ms. Taber developed an impressive library of continuing legal education programs

that can be accessed by all OIDS lawyers on an “as needed” basis. Having access to well-organized information is critical to the professional development and competence of our lawyers and investigators. Additionally, Ms. Taber started a monthly training series to benefit all OIDS employees that want to learn more about technology applications available to them.

To further the agency’s goal in providing attorneys with in-house training and guidance, the agency hired David Autry as a new Staff Attorney to assist with mentoring young trial lawyers in the courtroom. Mr. Autry is one of the most accomplished trial lawyers in the State of Oklahoma and he is helping transform our young corps of lawyers into zealous trial advocates. His presence on our staff and the mentoring he provides helps OIDS attract and retain dedicated criminal defense attorneys who seek to work with and learn from him.

SUMMARY OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR DUTIES

Statutory Duties
♦ Budget
♦ Claims
♦ Contracts with private attorneys
♦ Improve State’s criminal justice system
♦ Training for attorneys
♦ Defense representation
♦ Employ necessary personnel
♦ Set rates for attorneys who accept court appointments
♦ Set maximum caseloads
♦ Advise OIDS Board
♦ Conferences and training seminars
♦ Provide personnel to serve in advisory capacity to criminal defense attorneys
♦ Recommend legislation
♦ Track costs
♦ Adopt policies & procedures
♦ Provide for expert and investigator services

General Operations Program Accomplishments

The successes of the trial and appellate divisions would not be possible without the outstanding

service of the agency’s General Operations Program which includes the Executive, Finance, and Computer Operations Divisions. In addition to performing vital administrative functions, these dedicated professionals are instrumental in the agency’s responsible stewardship of agency funds.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the agency’s executive team experienced leadership changes and career development opportunities. Deputy Executive Director, Angela Cole-Cockings, made the decision to retire in May 2025. The agency has relied on Ms. Cole-Cockings administrative and legislative expertise for nearly twenty-eight years. Ms. Cole-Cockings will be deeply missed at the agency as she begins her next chapter into retirement.

Before retiring from the agency in June of 2025 with thirty-six years of service, Jamie D. Pybas took on the role of Interim Executive Director as the agency began recruiting for an Executive Director. In late winter and early spring of 2025, Ms. Pybas expertly oversaw the agency’s executive operations while also carrying an appellate caseload. Ms. Pybas played an exceptional role at the agency for the entirety of her career in the Appellate Division and that expertise helped the agency in her tenure as Interim Executive Director.

In May 2025, the agency’s Board of Directors selected Ms. Debbie Maddox as Executive Director of the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System. Before her promotion to Executive Director, Ms. Maddox was the Deputy Division Chief in the agency’s Non-Capital Trial office in Lawton. Ms. Maddox brings thirty-six years of legal experience to her role, with experience in appellate, capital, and non-capital criminal defense, counsel for the Oklahoma Ethics Commission and the Oklahoma Bar Association, and many years as a solo practitioner. The agency is excited to welcome Ms. Maddox into her new role.

In FY-2025, the agency continued to make significant improvements in our finance, procurement, and technological functions. In November 2024, the agency hired Steven Feldman as Chief Information Officer to oversee the agency's Computer Operations Division. Shortly after Mr. Feldman joined the agency, he completed major projects to include updating the agency's case management system, finding storage solutions for complex agency files, restoring the agency's contractor portal, assisting our attorneys with technical support in the courtroom, and implementing new inventory management software.

In addition to Mr. Feldman's efforts, Information System Network Manager, Felisa Billy, and Information System Application Manager, Tucker Chaney, continued to improve the work lives of the agency's attorneys, investigators, and support staff by implementing significant technological improvements.

In our Finance Division, Chief Finance Officer, Brandy Bahm, expertly oversaw the agency's fiscal management while adding additional managerial responsibilities over the agency's computer operations division. Ms. Bahm has transformed the agency's approach to managing financial resources so that OIDS can meet its obligations to provide public defender services to 75 Oklahoma counties.

Project Manager, Christa Szabo, expanded her role in the Finance division by overseeing various projects in the Norman office and satellite offices while continuously finding cost-savings to the agency. As Tucker Chaney transitioned to the Computer Operations Division from the Finance Division, the agency hired Dulce Avila in June 2025 to oversee the agency's information technology purchasing. Ms. Avila brings purchasing and finance experience from the District Attorney's council where Ms. Avila worked in procurement and managed grants.

Briana Shawn, Account Clerk, and Maranda Whitaker, Assistance Finance Officer, continued to provide excellent services and support to our employees, contractors, and experts in their positions.

The Human Resources team received additional duties in Fiscal Year 2025 due to Janet Gonzales, Payroll Specialist, retiring in May 2025. Upon Ms. Gonzales' retirement, the agency's payroll responsibilities were transferred from the Finance Division to the Human Resources Division. As a result of this transfer of duties, the Human Resources division needed more staff to assist Human Resources Manager, Whitney Fleming, and Human Resources Specialist, Jalaina Arvin, with the agency's personnel needs including recruiting, onboarding, benefits management, and retirement coordination.

In December 2024, the agency hired Mindy Simon as Human Resources Specialist. Ms. Simon brings twenty-four years of Payroll and Human Resources expertise to the agency with previous state service at the Department of Corrections and Department of Tourism. The Human Resources team demonstrated leadership and innovation as they implemented thoughtful procedural improvements while managing unprecedented workloads.

The outstanding efforts of the entire General Operations Program, in conjunction with the efforts of the Non-Capital Trial Division, resulted in the July 1, 2025, establishment of a new trial office which will serve Rogers County in FY-2026 and beyond.

In FY-2025, the Executive Division continued to employ interns in the Trial and Appellate divisions. This program offered up to twelve law students the opportunity to work with skilled attorneys on trial and appellate cases. The internship program has developed into a valuable recruiting tool as many interns have sought and continue to seek employment opportunities with the agency upon graduation.

The Executive Division continued the agency's client services program in FY-2025. OIDS brought on three Resource Navigators in Fiscal Year 2024 to help build a program where OIDS is involved in arranging service plans for clients. The Resource Navigator program identifies clients whose case dispositions are most likely to be improved with the provision of services. The program evaluates the clients' needs including mental health/substance abuse treatment, housing, education, vocational assistance, child/adult care challenges, and more.

Karen Walker-Dodge originally organized and managed the Resource Navigator program through which the agency improved the disposition of many of our clients' criminal cases. Ms. Walker-Dodge made the decision to retire in June 2025. Ms. Walker-Dodge built a sound framework for the program in the latter part of FY-2023. In early FY-2024, Ms. Walker-Dodge began supervision of the agency's first Resource Navigator, Kaleda Ruck, who served several counties out of the agency's El Reno office. The Resource Navigator team has since added Lauren Mitchell to the Norman office, Jill Guinn to the Sapulpa office, and Denise Phelps to the Lawton office to serve more agency clients in additional counties. The Resource Navigator Program has continued to develop in FY-2025 with a plan to further expand services to our clients. In FY-2024, the OIDS Resource Navigators assisted 495 agency clients, and the program assisted another 805 agency clients in FY-2025. This program has

led to a real modernization of services offered to our clients at a time when evidence-based diversionary programs are finding great success.

WEBSITE

The agency's website provides information about OIDS, resources for public defenders and others interested in criminal law issues, answers to most frequently asked questions and notices of training opportunities. Non-Capital Trial attorney Tessa Martin volunteered to build a motion bank for use of internal OIDS lawyers and criminal defense practitioners across the State of Oklahoma. All of Ms. Martin's efforts should be fully realized during FY-2026. The website can be accessed at <https://oklahoma.gov/oids.html>.

◆ Trial Program

The Trial Program consists of three Divisions which provide legal representation to agency clients who have been judicially determined to be unable to afford counsel to defend against criminal charges brought by the State in district court. OIDS is appointed by the district courts to represent these defendants.

The right to counsel at State expense was established by the United States Supreme Court in *Gideon v. Wainwright*, 371 U.S. 335 (1963). The right to expert assistance at State expense was established by the United States Supreme Court in *Ake v. Oklahoma*, 470 U.S. 68 (1985).

Chapter 3

NON-CAPITAL TRIAL DIVISION

The Non-Capital Trial Division (NCTD) is responsible for defending indigent criminal defendants charged with offenses punishable by incarceration. Cases range from traffic offenses filed in state court to non-capital first degree murder. NCTD's area of responsibility spans 75 counties, with Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties being excluded. Thus, NCTD represents the agency's largest group of clients. In Fiscal Year 2025, NCTD received 31,111 new appointments. NCTD's total FY-2025 caseload, which includes cases carried forward from previous fiscal years, equaled 46,352 active cases.

DELIVERY OF NON-CAPITAL TRIAL LEGAL SERVICES

In accordance with the Indigent Defense Act, NCTD provides legal representation in the 75 counties for which it is responsible in four ways:

- 1) flat-rate fiscal year contracts with private attorneys.
- 2) satellite offices with salaried staff attorneys.
- 3) assignment of conflict cases to private attorneys who have agreed to accept such cases at established agency hourly rates, subject to statutory maximums set by the Indigent Defense Act; and
- 4) assignment of cases to roving attorneys.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Division's caseload was handled as follows:

- 1) Flat-rate Fiscal Year Contracts: In 39 counties, all NCTD representation was provided via such contracts. Since Fiscal

Year 1998, OIDS has made a concerted effort to ensure that NCTD fiscal-year contracts are adequately staffed by giving weight, during the contracting process, to the number of law firms participating in an offer.

- 2) Staffed Satellite Offices: NCTD operated twelve satellite offices: Altus, Clinton, El Reno, Enid, Guymon, Lawton, Norman, Okmulgee, Poteau, Pryor, Sapulpa and Woodward. These offices handled the entire caseload in 36 counties.

The Non-Capital Trial Division ended Fiscal Year 2025 (July 1, 2024– June 30, 2025) with 62 attorneys (57 Satellite Office Attorneys, 3 Roving Attorneys, 1 Deputy Chief for NCTD, and 1 Chief.) During Fiscal Year 2025, a satellite office staff attorney handled an average of 171 felony and youthful offender cases, 24 juvenile cases, and 140 misdemeanor, traffic and wildlife cases, or an average of 337 total cases.

The National Legal Aid and Defender Association (NLADA) has long established standards, endorsed by the Criminal Justice Section of the American Bar Association, that no one attorney shall handle in any given 12-month period more than 150 felony cases, OR more than 200 juvenile cases, OR more than 400 misdemeanor and traffic cases. Further, the NLADA standards assume each respective attorney operates in only one courthouse.

Applying the NLADA standards, in Fiscal Year 2025, each NCTD satellite office staff attorney did the work of two attorneys. Moreover, most attorneys worked in several district courts in multiple counties.

Currently, three satellite offices cover five counties each (Altus, Clinton, and Enid), three offices cover four-county areas

(Guymon, Lawton, and Woodward), one office covers three counties (Norman), one office covers two counties (Okmulgee), and four offices cover a single county (El Reno, Poteau, Pryor, and Sapulpa). Although Sapulpa covers one county, the office covers two (2) separate courthouses within Creek County.

- 3) **Conflict Counsel:** Each year, conflicts of interest arise in a certain number of county contract and satellite office cases and must be assigned to conflict-free counsel. During Fiscal Year 2025, NCTD assigned 221 conflict cases to contracted conflict counsel. Conflicts arising out of county contracts account for 39 of those cases. Conflicts arising out of satellite offices account for 182 of those cases.
- 4) In FY-2010, NCTD received federal funding for one roving attorney. On December 1, 2009, NCTD hired an attorney to cover conflict cases and provide overload relief to NCTD attorneys in Western Oklahoma. Although the federal funding expired late in FY-2011, the agency has maintained this position. In FY-2025, the agency employs 4 roving attorneys. The roving attorneys are assigned complicated cases. These attorneys participate with assigned counsel in trial strategy formulation, pre-trial litigation, and trial advocacy. The roving attorneys were assigned 56 new cases during FY-2025, most of which were serious and complicated felony cases. As FY-2024 ended, the roving attorneys carried 21 open cases in counties throughout Oklahoma.

DISCUSSION

The OIDS Board awards fiscal-year contracts to private attorneys to provide non-capital trial defense services on a county-by-county basis. In response to the agency's solicitations each year, private attorneys offer to provide criminal defense services in felony, misdemeanor, traffic

and (delinquent) juvenile cases in one or more counties for a flat annual rate. The contracting process is volatile, not only in terms of the number of offers, if any, received for any county, but also in terms of the cost of any contract awarded. As a result, the agency's ability to provide contract coverage in many counties, especially the smaller, more rural ones, is unpredictable.

When the agency is unable to obtain a fiscal-year contract for indigent criminal defense work in a county, the Board has two options: (1) establish a satellite office with salaried staff attorneys to accept the System's appointments in the affected county under Section 1355.9 of the Indigent Defense Act or (2) assign the System's appointments in that county to private attorneys who have agreed to accept cases on a case-by-case basis at established agency rates (\$120/hour for in-court legal services; \$100/hour for out-of-court legal services) under Section 1355.8(D)(6) of the Indigent Defense Act.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Non-Capital Trial Division's satellite offices served the following counties:

ALTUS OFFICE

Greer, Harmon, Kiowa, Jackson, & Tillman

CLINTON OFFICE

Beckham, Custer, Ellis, Roger Mills, & Washita

EL RENO OFFICE

Canadian

ENID OFFICE

Alfalfa, Blaine, Garfield, Grant, & Kingfisher

GUYMON OFFICE

Beaver, Cimarron, Harper, & Texas

LAWTON OFFICE

Comanche, Cotton, Jefferson, & Stephens

NORMAN OFFICE

Cleveland, Garvin, & McClain

OKMULGEE OFFICE

Okfuskee & Okmulgee

POTEAU OFFICE

LaFlore

PRYOR OFFICE

Mayes

SAPULPA OFFICE

Creek (2 Courthouses)

WOODWARD OFFICE

Dewey, Major, Woods, & Woodward

OVERALL CASELOAD

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Non-Capital Trial Division received a total of 16,216 new county contract cases. County contractors discovered conflicts of interest in 59 of these cases. As a result, 39 of the conflict cases were assigned to contracted conflict counsel. Twenty of the conflict cases would have otherwise been assigned to a satellite office for coverage but were instead assigned to the roving attorneys. Once the conflict and roving attorney's cases were subtracted from all newly assigned cases, the county contractors retained a total of 16,216 new cases in Fiscal Year 2025. The county contractors carried another 8,823 cases into FY-2025 from previous fiscal years. Ultimately, the total FY-2025 county contract workload equaled 25,039 cases.

The Non-Capital Trial Division satellite offices reported a total of 218 conflict of interest cases. 182 of these cases were assigned to contracted conflict counsel. Thirty-six cases were assigned to roving attorneys. With conflict and roving attorney cases subtracted from all newly assigned cases, the satellite offices handled 14,618 new cases in Fiscal Year 2025. The

satellite offices carried another 6,297 cases into FY-2025 from previous fiscal years. Ultimately, the total FY-2025 satellite office workload totaled 20,915 cases.

The number of new (FY-2025) NCTD cases, whether assigned to county contractors, satellite attorneys, conflict counsel or the roving attorneys, totaled 31,111.

The 46,352 cases handled by the Non-Capital Trial Division during Fiscal Year 2025 represent a caseload decrease of 2.7% compared to the number of cases handled in FY-2024.

The Fiscal Year 2025 NCTD caseload represents a 19% decrease since Fiscal Year 2016 (57,318 cases). However, the FY-2025 NCTD caseload also represents a 12.8% increase since FY-2011 in which the total NCTD caseloads were 41,083.

As is discussed in the following paragraph, the FY-2025 non-capital trial caseload reflects NCTD's improved efficiency in closing prior fiscal year cases. With fewer cases carried forward from previous fiscal years, NCTD has improved its capacity for managing current fiscal year cases.

The number of new Non-Capital Trial Division appointments is virtually unchanged from FY-2024 to FY-2025. The division was appointed to 31,111 new cases in FY-2025. In FY-2024 the division was appointed to 31,222 new cases. A difference of 111 cases.

Although the new case appointment rate remained steady in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025, the Non-Capital Trial Division decreased the overall number of open cases through the more efficient and timely closing of prior fiscal year cases.

NCTD carried 1,198 fewer open cases into FY-2025 than the division carried into FY-2024. As a result of NCTD's efforts, the number of carryover cases declined 7.3% from FY-2024 to FY-2025. In FY-2024, NCTD carried 16,418

cases into the new fiscal year from prior fiscal years. In FY-2025, NCTD carried 15,220 cases into the new fiscal year from prior fiscal years.

Non-Capital Trial Division Accomplishments

The Non-Capital Trial Division (NCTD) provides judicially determined indigent people trial-level representation in District Court felony, misdemeanor, traffic, wildlife, and juvenile delinquency cases. NCTD provides criminal defense representation through regional satellite offices, fiscal year county contracts, conflict contracts, and staff roving attorneys. Staff attorneys and contracted attorneys alike vigorously defended their clients' constitutional rights throughout FY-2025. NCTD's successes are too numerous to list; however, in FY-2025, all twelve Satellite Offices tried cases to juries, most resulting in positive outcomes for our clients and many resulting in acquittals. The roving attorneys tried several cases to juries. These trials were factually and legally complicated cases involving homicide or other violent felony allegations. All trials resulted in favorable results for the clients.

During the last few weeks of Fiscal Year 2025, the agency prepared to open a satellite office in Claremore to serve clients in Rogers County by July 1, 2025. The Claremore satellite office will employ three attorneys to serve Rogers County clients beginning in FY-2026.

CAPITAL (DEATH PENALTY) TRIAL REPRESENTATION

The OIDS Capital Trial Divisions are assigned the task of representing indigent defendants in cases in which the State seeks the death penalty. The two Divisions combined represent clients throughout the State except for Oklahoma and Tulsa Counties. Both Divisions operate as

separate law firms for conflict purposes. If one Division cannot accept a court appointment because of a conflict of interest arising from another court appointment, the case is generally assigned to the other Division. If neither Division can accept the court appointment, OIDS contracts with private counsel to represent the client under Sections 1355.7 and 1355.13 of the Indigent Defense Act.

CAPITAL TRIAL NORMAN DIVISION

The Capital Trial Norman Division (CTND) represents defendants in capital cases and, at times, non-capital first degree murder cases throughout the state excluding those filed in Tulsa and Oklahoma Counties. CTND also represents co-defendants of clients represented by the Capital Trial Tulsa Division (CTTD).

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Capital Trial Norman Division carried over 15 cases from previous fiscal years. CTND opened an additional three cases during Fiscal Year 2025, bringing the total number of cases represented to 18 (Of those 18 cases, two were a client's trailing felony case.)

FISCAL YEAR 2025 RESULTS

CTND did not have any jury trials in Fiscal Year 2025. Rather, CTND resolved five clients' cases with sentences less than death. Three clients' cases were resolved through guilty pleas following months of intensive trial preparation and negotiation. CTND resolved two other clients' case through an acquittal based upon a finding that the clients were too mentally ill to understand the nature, consequences, or wrongfulness of their actions. CTND's attorneys, investigators, and support staff continue to provide outstanding advocacy.

Case Resolutions

The Capital Trial Norman Division represented three clients during Fiscal Year 2025 whose

cases were resolved by guilty pleas. In each of these cases, the client entered a plea of guilty to First Degree Murder and other charges. One client received two counts of Life suspended with 35 years to serve after prolonged negotiation and communication with the victim's family. One client received two counts of Life suspended with 40 years to serve after significant advocacy and litigation. One client received a sentence of Life after intense mitigation investigation.

The Capital Trial Norman Division represented two clients during Fiscal Year 2025 whose cases were resolved by acquittal upon a finding of not guilty by reason of mental illness which resulted in both clients being committed to the Oklahoma Forensic Center.

All of these resolutions either prevented a Bill of Particulars from being filed or resulted in the Bill of Particulars being dismissed.

CTND maintains close contact with the Capital Trial Tulsa Division and the Non-Capital Trial Division to ensure agency clients charged with first degree murder receive responsive and conflict-free representation. The results of CTND are a reflection of the outstanding teamwork, advocacy, and commitment of the attorneys, investigators, and support staff.

The following is a summary of CTND's case results:

Result	No. Of Cases
Death	0
Life Without Parole (Following Plea)	0
Life Without Parole (Jury Trial)	0
Pled to Lower Sentence	3
Determined to be NGRMI	2

CAPITAL TRIAL TULSA DIVISION

The Capital Trial Tulsa Division (CTTD) has the shared responsibility with the Norman Capital Trial Division for defending capital and non-capital first degree murder cases in 75 counties in the State. Capital case assignment per division is at the discretion of the executive director, who assesses caseload and trial demands to ensure that all capital clients in the State are properly represented, and each capital division has adequate resources for its caseload. Executive typically and practically assigns CTTD capital and first degree murder cases on the Eastern side of the state, except in the case of conflict or other circumstances as warranted.

CASELOAD

The Capital Trial Tulsa Division (CTTD) began Fiscal Year 2025 with a carryover of ten murder cases and two non-murder cases pending from previous fiscal years. The Division opened two new murder cases and one non-murder case during the fiscal year, bringing the total caseload for the year to twelve murder, and three non-murder cases. The Division concluded four murder cases and two non-murder cases, carrying over 9 cases into Fiscal Year 2026.

OVERVIEW

The Capital Trial Tulsa Division (CTTD) continues to work diligently to provide excellent representation to indigent capital defendants in accordance with the ABA Guidelines for Effective Representation in Death Penalty Cases. CTTD's mission is to pursue life-saving outcomes for their clients at every stage of the proceedings. CTTD utilizes expert services to explain human behavior in context and to thoroughly investigate the life stories of their clients to present a comprehensive portrait of troubled people. CTTD's efforts have largely proved successful,

with no death sentences from that division in more than a decade.

Fiscal Year 2025 Results

Resolved Murder Case 1 – Defendant charged with first-degree murder for stabbing his wife to death in her home. The trial team, led by attorney Velia Lopez, compiled a compelling mitigation package to present to the State. The combination of zealous litigation and compelling mitigation led to a negotiated settlement of the case. Client pled guilty, waived jury trial and was sentenced to Life With the Possibility of Parole.

Resolved Murder Case 2 – Defendant charged with three counts of first-degree murder for the unprovoked and premeditated killing of his mother, father, and sister. The State sought the death penalty. Attorneys Gretchen Armor, Velia Lopez, and Sara Cherry Weber, were able to negotiate a guilty plea with the State early in the litigation, saving taxpayers tens of thousands of dollars and victims years of painful litigation. The client received Life w/o parole on each of the 3 murder counts.

Resolved Murder Case 3 – Defendant charged with first-degree murder for shooting his girlfriend in her home. Counselors Velia Lopez and Sara Cherry Weber, through vigorous litigation, negotiated a plea. Client pled guilty, waived jury trial and was sentenced to Life w/o parole.

Resolved Capital Case 4 – Defendant was charged with 6 counts of Murder in the first Degree. Five of the murder victims were children. Defendant was also charged with one count of Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon for shooting the mother of the children, as well as one count of Possession of Firearm ACF. The State filed a Bill of Particulars alleging many prior bad acts in support of the continuing threat aggravator and was unwilling to negotiate throughout years of litigation. The trial team, led by Division Chief

Gretchen Armor, developed a compelling NGMI defense, effective legal challenges to the State's case, and a persuasive mitigation strategy for defending both stages of trial. Mitigation specialist, Melanie Collins, and investigators Vicki Hampton and Rhonda Harper, developed and compiled an extensive social history across multiple states, and the team worked together with experts and witnesses to develop a compelling and comprehensive first and second stage theory of the case. Attorney Michon Hughes worked diligently to develop material impeachment evidence of the State's aggravation, and spent countless hours building relationships with the client and his family. Critical litigation in the weeks before trial finally led to a lifesaving offer from the State, and outstanding effort by the entire team, especially Michon Hughes, persuaded the reluctant client to accept the offer just ten days before trial was to start. In exchange for a plea of guilty, defendant received- Count 1: Life without the Possibility of Parole; Counts 2-6: Life With Parole; Count 7 & 8: 10 years each to run concurrently.

Resolved Case 5 & 6 – These clients had additional separate non-capital charges that the state dismissed without prejudice due to no complaining witnesses.

CTTD maintains close contact with the Capital Trial Norman Division and the Non-Capital Trial Division to ensure agency clients charged with first degree murder, receive responsive and conflict-free representation. The results set forth below reflect the outstanding work by the attorneys, mitigation specialist, investigators and support staff.

Result	No. Of Cases
Death	0
Life Without Parole (Following Plea)	3
Life Without Parole (Jury Trial)	0
Life With Parole (Following Plea)	1
Pled to a Lesser Charge	0
Determined to be NGRMI	0
Charge Dismissed (Non-Capital)	2

Capital Trial Divisions: Conclusion

The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System's two capital trial divisions embrace the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System's most challenging and consequential responsibilities. They defend and advocate for individuals charged with the most serious crimes and for whom the State seeks sentences of death.

Effective capital trial litigation requires the extraordinary efforts of skilled attorneys, investigators, and support staff. The trial team must prepare their cases on multiple tracks at once. They must prepare to defend against the

charges. They must prepare to defend against the alleged death penalty aggravating factors. They must prepare to tell their client's story in the sentencing phase of trial through mitigation and expert witnesses. They must know how each preparation track works together in their client's defense. Throughout this complex process, capital defense counsel must also persistently advocate for a negotiated resolution to the case.

The agency is grateful to the dedicated professionals in the Capital Trial Norman and Capital Trial Tulsa divisions for embracing the challenges of death penalty litigation.

Chapter 4

◆ Appellate Program

The right to an appeal in a criminal case is guaranteed by Article II, Section 6 of the Oklahoma Constitution, 22 O.S. § 1051 of the Oklahoma Statutes, and, in death penalty cases, 21 O.S. § 701.13 and 22 O.S. § 1089 of the Oklahoma Statutes. The right to counsel at State expense on direct appeal was established under the Federal Constitution by the United States Supreme Court in *Douglas v. California*, 372 U.S. 353 (1963). The right to counsel at State expense in capital post-conviction proceedings is found in 22 O.S. § 1089.

After the appellate reorganization in November 2023, fiscal 2025 was the first full fiscal year of the two new appellate divisions – Appellate East and Appellate West. The two divisions cover rough geographic areas of the state. As cases may need to be moved to the other division due to conflicts or case overload, certain cases may be

assigned outside its geographic area. Each division is set up to have a Division Chief, Deputy Division Chief, ten additional appellate attorneys, three investigators, three full-time support personnel, and an office aide.

APPELLATE DIVISION EAST

Highlighted Accomplishments

Jamie Pybas, former Division Chief, obtained relief in a certiorari case for Larry Griffin in Case No. C-2023-950. Ms. Pybas argued that the client was denied the effective assistance of counsel, as an actual conflict arose when the same attorney represented Mr. Griffin both at his plea hearing and at the hearing on his motion to withdraw plea. The appellate court agreed and remanded the matter for a new hearing on Petitioner's motion to withdraw guilty plea.

Chad Johnson, current Division Chief, represented Michael Gwyn in Case No. F-2023-173, an appeal from his convictions for child sexual abuse and 30-year total sentence. The appellate court granted a new trial, agreeing with Appellant's arguments that the record did not reflect a valid waiver of the right to a jury trial, that trial counsel had an actual conflict of interest by representing Appellant and the co-defendant, and that Appellant was denied his right to confrontation by the admission of the co-defendant's guilty-plea factual basis statement as an exhibit at the bench trial.

MaryAnn Grover, current Deputy Division Chief, convinced the Court of Criminal Appeals to reverse and dismiss two of Quintral Wilburn's counts in Case No. F-2022-1144. While the Court affirmed Mr. Wilburn's other counts, it agreed that convictions for both armed robbery and feloniously pointing a firearm constituted double punishment under 21 O.S. § 11.

Moreover, Ms. Grover, as noted in last year's report, won a published State appeal in fiscal 2025, *State v. Aguilar*, 2024 OK CR 18, by successfully arguing that the district court properly granted a motion to quash where the State charged a pregnant mother with child neglect for allegedly using prescription marijuana.

Ariel Parry secured relief for her client, Cassandra McIlroy, in Case No. RE-2023-389. The district court revoked Ms. McIlroy's five-year suspended sentence, but the Court of Criminal Appeals agreed with Appellant the probations violations were "technical" pursuant to 22 O.S. § 991b(B) and modified the revocation to six months.

Ms. Parry also obtained relief in the published case, *Jacquiline Mills v. State*, 2024 OK CR 22. The trial court accelerated Ms. Mills' deferred sentence to a life prison term. The trial judge found that Ms. Mills committed a new offense by taking judicial notice of a preliminary

hearing which she attended as a spectator. The appellate court agreed with Appellant's argument that judicial notice was improper under these circumstances and reversed and vacated the acceleration order.

Further, Ms. Parry, in a published case, *Darnell Cotton v. State*, 2024 OK CR 21, convinced the appellate court to vacate the district court's order which illegally lengthened her client's sentence. The trial court revoked five years of Mr. Cotton's ten-year suspended sentence and ordered the remaining five years to be "resuspended" upon Cotton's release from the Department of Corrections. The Court of Criminal Appeals agreed that such order impermissibly extended the original ten-year sentence.

Danny Joseph pointed out to the appellate court that Baptiste Boice received an illegal sentence in Case No. F-2024-40. While the Court affirmed Mr. Boice's convictions and sentences in other counts, it modified the five-year sentence for failure to comply with sex offender registration to three years.

Taylor Ledford convinced the appellate court to reverse and dismiss a 20-year sentence in *Delano Lindley v. State*, F-2022-1121. While the Court affirmed Mr. Lindley's other counts, it agreed that convictions for first-degree murder and discharging a weapon from a vehicle constituted double punishment for a single act as prohibited by 21 O.S. § 11.

Several other cases obtained relief, including corrections to judgment and sentences, modification of financial obligations, and vacatur of post-imprisonment supervision.

Cases Handled

Appellate Division East began July 1, 2024, with 151 open cases at various stages of appeal. An additional 179 new cases were added in fiscal

2025 (175 by direct assignment and four cases transferred from Appellate Division West), for a total of 330 cases handled by the division during the fiscal year.

Appeal Type	No.
Felony and Misdemeanor	
Direct Appeals:	193
Certiorari:	31
Revocation/Acceleration/ Specialty Court Appeals:	97
Death Penalty Direct Appeals:	1
Capital Post Conviction Appeals:	3
Juvenile/Youthful Offender Appeals:	2
State Appeals:	3
TOTAL	330

Cases Briefed

Appellate Division East filed 121 briefs in chief during FY-2025, including two capital post-conviction applications. In non-capital appeals, 63 opening briefs were filed in direct appeal cases, 17 in certiorari cases, 37 in revocation, acceleration or specialty court termination cases, one in a juvenile appeal, and one response brief in chief was filed in an appeal lodged by the State. The Division filed 34 reply briefs.

Types of Crimes in Non-Capital Direct Appeals

Analysis of the types of crimes involved in the 63 direct appeal cases briefed by Division attorneys in FY-2025 showed that twelve involved homicides. Opening direct appeal briefs were also filed involving convictions for sexual crimes in 15 cases, other violent crimes in 19 cases, drug crimes in four cases, property crimes in five cases, and a variety of other crimes (DUI, firearm possession, etc.) in eight cases.

Cases Closed

Appellate Division East began with 151 open cases on July 1, 2024, added 179 new cases, and closed 169 cases during the fiscal year, leaving 161 cases open at the beginning of FY-2026. Of

the cases closed, 117 were closed by decision of the appellate court, 23 were transferred to Appellate West when Ariel Parry accepted the Division Chief position (taking her open cases with her), ten were transferred to Appellate West due to county realignment and/or caseload equity purposes, two were closed when the client died, six were dismissed by client request, two revocation appeals were dismissed as moot, six cases were dismissed for lack of appellate jurisdiction or invalid appointment, and three were closed when private counsel entered the case.

Capital Direct Appeals and Capital Post-Conviction Cases

No new capital direct appeals were assigned to Appellate Division East in FY-2025. The opening brief and application for evidentiary hearing in David Ware v. State, D-2022-465, were filed at the end of FY-2024. The State filed its answer brief in Ware in October 2024, and Jamie Pybas filed the reply brief on December 9, 2024. After Ms. Pybas retired, Ware was reassigned to Taylor Ledford. The appellate court has not yet scheduled the Ware oral argument, and the case remains pending.

Appellate East handled three capital post-conviction applications in FY-2025. The application for post-conviction relief in Joseph Alliniece v. State, PCD-2021-1316, was filed in FY-2024, and the case remains pending. Chad Johnson and Danny Joseph filed the application in Derrick Laday v. State, PCD-2021-1318, on September 5, 2024, and the case remains pending. MaryAnn Gover and Jamie Pybas filed the application in Daniel Vasquez v. State, PCD-2022-669 on October 4, 2024, and the appellate court denied post-conviction relief on June 19, 2025.

**Appellate Division East Cases Received by
County: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

Adar	1	Muskogee	13
Atoka	1	Noble	1
Bryan	3	Nowata	1
Carter	1	Okfuskee	3
Cherokee	2	Okmulgee	9
Choctaw	1	Osage	7
Cleveland	3	Ottawa	2
Comanche	2	Pawnee	2
Craig	4	Payne	6
Creek	8	Pittsburg	5
Haskell	1	Pontotoc	5
Hughes	2	Pottawatomie	7
Jackson	1	Rogers	6
Kay	15	Seminole	6
Latimer	4	Sequoyah	3
LeFlore	1	Tulsa	33
Lincoln	3	Wagoner	3
McCurtain	5	Washington	7
McIntosh	2	TOTAL	179

APPELLATE DIVISION WEST

Highlighted Accomplishments

Mark Hoover obtained a reversal for Possession of Drug Paraphernalia in *Hill v. State*, F-2023-8. Mr. Hoover argued there was insufficient evidence to support the conviction, and the Court of Criminal Appeals agreed. In another case, *Pease v. State*, F-2023-66, Mr. Hoover obtained a new trial for his client convicted of possession of a firearm after felony conviction and shooting into a dwelling.

Ariel Parry, Appellate Division West Division Chief, obtained a reversal for insufficient evidence in a case where her client was convicted of Bringing Contraband into a County Jail.

Appellate Division West also obtained a resentencing hearing in *Rodriguez v. State*, F-2023-839. In *Rodriguez*, the client was charged with firearm offenses and the State alleged he

had a previous felony conviction. Appellate Division West argued the trial court erroneously admitted a Judgment and Sentence showing the details of the prior conviction. The Court of Criminal Appeals agreed and found that even though there was no doubt that the defendant was guilty, the error in admitting factual details of the underlying conviction rendered the sentence unreliable. The Court remanded the matter for a new sentencing hearing.

In a juvenile case, attorneys obtained relief for a young client and prevented his imprisonment in the department of corrections. First, Appellate West worked with now-Director Debbie Maddox to obtain a stay preventing their young client from being transferred to the Department of Corrections. Then, Appellate West convinced the Court of Criminal Appeals that the State failed to properly seek adult sentencing. The juvenile was originally sentenced to 20 years in prison, but now he will not be required to serve a day in prison.

Elliott Crawford, now the Deputy Division Chief of Appellate Division West, obtained relief for his client in *Robertson v. State*, F-2023-613. In *Robertson*, the trial court imposed a sentence of 25 years for a drug offense, but Mr. Crawford argued the maximum sentence allowed by law was 20 years. The Court agreed and modified the sentence.

Appellate Division West also obtained financial relief for their clients. In *Aguilar v. State*, F-2022-928, Christopher Capraro argued the trial court erroneously imposed OSBI laboratory fees; the State agreed and obtained a new Judgment and Sentence removing the requirement the client pay those unlawful fees. In *Patterson v. State*, F-2024-282, Ariel Parry argued the trial court unlawfully imposed \$30,000 in fines where the jury's verdict did not include a fine. The State agreed and obtained a new Judgment and Sentence omitting the imposition of fines.

Appellate Division West also obtained relief for clients whose probation was improperly revoked. First, in *Mabry v. State*, RE-2023-599, Jeremy Stillwell's client was sentenced to five years in prison for violating his probation. Mr. Stillwell argued the underlying offense was a felony at the time of sentencing but was since reduced to a misdemeanor. Mr. Stillwell convinced the Court that his client's sentence could not be revoked more than six months. Then, in *Roquemore v. State*, RE-2024-217, Stephen Babcock argued that trial court's attempt to "re-suspend" the unrevoked portion of his client's suspended sentence unlawfully extended the original sentence. The State agreed and obtained a new Judgment and Sentence omitting the language that would extend the original sentence. Appellate Division West obtained relief for several other clients on various grounds.

Cases Handled

Appellate Division West began July 1, 2024, with 177 open cases at various stages of appeal. An additional 175 cases were added in the fiscal year (142 by direct assignment, 10 cases transferred from Appellate Division East, and 23 cases transferred from Appellate Division East when Ariel Parry accepted the position of Appellate Division West Division Chief), for a total of 352 cases handled by the division during the fiscal year.

Appeal Type	No.
Felony and Misdemeanor	
Direct Appeals:	207
Certiorari:	28
Revocation/Acceleration/ Specialty Court Appeals:	101
Death Penalty Direct Appeals:	3
Capital Post Conviction Appeals:	2
Juvenile/Youthful Offender Appeals:	6
State Appeals:	5
TOTAL	352

Cases Briefed

Appellate Division West filed 131 briefs in chief during FY-2025, two capital post-conviction applications and one Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court. In non-capital appeals, 76 opening briefs were filed in direct appeal cases, 12 in certiorari cases, 37 in revocation, acceleration or specialty court termination cases, three in juvenile appeals, and three response briefs in chief were filed in an appeal lodged by the State. The Division filed 14 reply briefs and two Petitions for Rehearing.

Types of Crimes in Non-Capital Direct Appeals

Analysis of the types of crimes involved in the 76 direct appeal cases briefed by Division attorneys in FY-2025 showed that 23 involved homicides. Opening direct appeal briefs were also filed involving convictions for sexual crimes in 17 cases, other violent crimes in 16 cases, drug crimes in six cases, property crimes in four cases, and a variety of other crimes (DUI, firearm possession, etc.) in 10 cases.

Cases Closed

Appellate Division West began with 177 open cases on July 1, 2024, added 175 new cases, and closed 166 cases during the fiscal year, leaving 186 cases open at the beginning of FY-2026. Of the cases closed, 130 were closed by decision of the appellate court, one was transferred to Appellate East due a conflict, one was closed when the client died, 11 were dismissed by client request, three revocation appeals were dismissed as moot, five cases were dismissed for lack of appellate jurisdiction or invalid appointment, two were closed when private counsel entered the case, five were consolidated, and five were contracted to outside counsel due to conflict and workload during personnel shortages, and three were transferred to Appellate East during personnel shortages. A capital direct appeal case was closed when the

United States Supreme Court denied the Petition for Writ of Certiorari.

Capital Direct Appeals and Capital Post-Conviction Cases

No new capital direct appeals were assigned to Appellate Division West in FY-2025. However, two capital direct appeals cases (*Alliniece v. State*, D-2021-755 and *Laday v. State*, D-2021-737) remain open awaiting oral argument. On October 15, 2024, Michael Morehead filed the Petition for Writ of Certiorari with the United States Supreme Court in *Posey v. State*, D-2019-542; *Posey v. Oklahoma*, No. 24-5793. Mr. Posey's case was closed when the Petition was later denied.

In FY-2025, Appellate Division West handled two capital post-conviction applications. The application for post-conviction relief in *Reece v. State*, PCD-2021-1317, was filed on August 9, 2024, by Scott Braden. The application for post-conviction relief in *Ware v. State*, PCD-2022-668 was filed by Scott Braden and Stephen Babcock on May 8, 2025. The Appellate Court has not yet ruled on either of these applications but has recently ordered the State to respond to the application in *Reece*.

Appellate Division West Cases Received by County: July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

Adair	1	Marshall	1
Atoka	1	McClain	5
Beckham	4	McCurtain	1
Caddo	1	McIntosh	1
Canadian	10	Muskogee	2
Carter	4	Noble	2
Cleveland	23	Oklahoma	18
Comanche	21	Okmulgee	2
Cotton	3	Osage	2
Creek	3	Payne	4
Custer	7	Pontotoc	1
Garfield	6	Pottawatomie	3
Garvin	6	Roger Mills	1
Grady	2	Sequoyah	1
Harmon	1	Stephens	5
Jackson	6	Texas	1
Jefferson	1	Tillman	1
Kay	5	Tulsa	5
Kiowa	5	Washita	3
Lincoln	1	Woodward	2
Logan	3	TOTAL	175

Conclusion

Keeping Gideon's Promise: New Challenges, New Opportunities.

Gideon v. Wainwright and its progeny promise all of us that if our liberty is placed in jeopardy through criminal prosecution, we have the right to competent legal representation to assist us in defending our constitutional rights. This promise is as critical now as ever if we hope to maintain the foundational principles of the United States of America and the Great State of Oklahoma. The defense of the liberty interests of the least powerful among us, the indigent, protects the liberty interests of all of us.

The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System's dedicated attorneys, investigators, and support staff continued to fulfill Gideon's promise in Fiscal Year 2025. The agency's clients received outstanding trial and appellate advocacy regardless of the charges they faced or the paucity of their resources.

Although our foundational principles remain constant, the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System must apply those principles to real life circumstances in an everchanging legal landscape. Legislation and judicial decisions provide opportunities for the agency to better serve its clients; however, these opportunities often require additional financial and human resources investments.

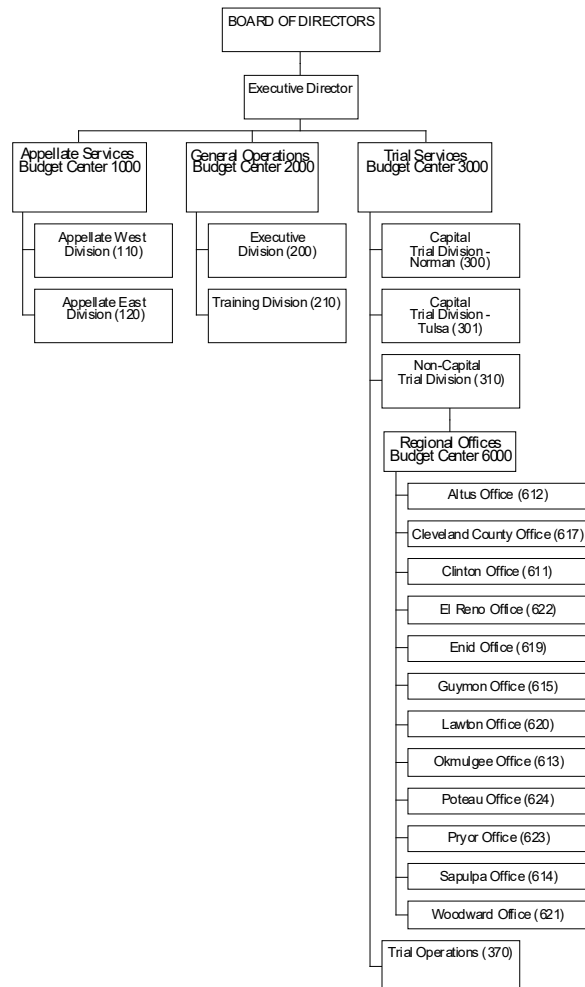
Opportunities to improve our clients' case dispositions, sentencing options, and prospects for rehabilitation require the agency's attorneys, investigators, and support staff to dedicate additional time and effort to thorough and zealous client advocacy. Recent changes in law include sentencing reform and court financial obligation reform legislation.

Although these legislative changes provide the agency better opportunities to help clients, these opportunities are only meaningful if the agency

has resources to develop and present the courts with evidence in support of our clients' interests. The Oklahoma Indigent Defense System will continue to meet these challenges and seize these opportunities in Fiscal Year 2026. The agency looks forward to the continued support of the Legislature, the Governor, and the Judiciary as we continue to honor our shared principles and effectuate our common goals.

Oklahoma Indigent Defense System

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OKLAHOMA INDIGENT DEFENSE SYSTEM

Non-Capital Trial Division

Actual FY-2025 Workload

July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

SUMMARY OF ALL CATEGORIES OF APPOINTMENTS

TYPE OF APPOINTMENT		FEL	JUV	MISD	TRAF	WL	YO	ALL
FY-2025 Contract LESS Conflicts and Rover Cases		8,879	677	6,530	102	6	22	16,216
Plus Contract Carry-Over from Prior Fiscal Years		5,426	283	2,979	107	3	25	8,823
Total Contract Workload		14,305	960	9,509	209	9	47	25,039
2025 Satellite Office LESS Conflicts and Rover Cases		7,198	725	6,438	231	0	26	14,618
Plus Satellite Office Carry-Over from Prior Fiscal Years		3,399	804	2,006	57	0	31	6,297
Total Satellite Office Workload		10,597	1,529	8,444	288	0	57	20,915
FY-2025 Conflicts	Contracts	21	0	13	0	0	5	39
	Satellite Offices	115	41	26	0	0	0	182
Conflicts Carryover from Prior Fiscal Years	Contract Counties	23	0	5	0	0	0	28
	Satellite Office Counties	47	8	14	1	0	2	72
FY-2025 Rover Cases	Contract Counties	19	0	1	0	0	0	20
	Satellite Office Counties	28	2	4	2	0	0	36
Rover Cases Carryover from Prior Fiscal Years		20	0	1	0	0	0	21
Total Conflicts and Rover Cases Workload		273	51	64	3	0	7	398
TOTAL FY-2025 NCT Workload		25,175	2,540	18,017	500	9	111	46,352