

- Since 5/2/24, 69.4% of Delinquency cases have been assigned to the Public Defender
- The Judges will meet on a quarterly basis to ensure the even distribution of cases among qualified attorneys on the assigned counsel list. The first meeting was conducted on 8/28/24. Each Judge was provided with a list of cases assigned to specific attorneys since 5/2/24. The next meeting will be held at the end of November and all assignments will be reviewed in their entirety.
- The Court is thoroughly checking qualifications and updating the list for jurists on a continuous, if not daily basis.
- The Court has provided attorneys on the assigned counsel list with a notification of training events for applicable CLEs.
- The Court will host a symposium on 12/20/24 which will provide CLEs required for the practice of juvenile law.
- The Court will contact all the attorneys on the Assigned Counsel list, both at the Juvenile Division and the General Division, and provide them with an overview of the exemption process. Exemptions can be secured from the Ohio Public Defender Commission on a case-by-case basis. More specifically, a Jurist may perceive a great necessity to assign a highly competent attorney to a complex and/or serious case where potential consequences are acutely dire. However, the specific attorney may not be “qualified” because he/she has not garnered the requisite CLEs. Thus, the application for an exemption relative to that singular case is directed for consideration to the Ohio Public Defender Commission.
- Assignments can never be distributed in a perfectly even manner. There are a number of attorneys who are qualified in many categories, but there are others who are only qualified to provide representation on misdemeanors. Since the majority of our misdemeanors are referred for Diversion services, there are fewer misdemeanor cases available to be assigned to that particular subset of attorneys.
- The Assignment List is also populated with attorneys who limit the number of cases which they can handle in light of their expansive practices; fortunately, there are a substantial number of attorneys who are willing, available, and possess the competence to accept and fulfill their representative obligations on additional cases.
- There will always be a top ten and a bottom ten of assigned attorneys. The Public Defender Office will always be in the top ten, if not the proverbial number one spot, and that Office will never be in the bottom ten. We believe and are wholly dedicated to ensuring that the middle of the assignment list will reflect an appreciable rise in assignments to a greater number of assigned counsel. We will be monitoring that situation closely and consistently.
- Since 5/2/24 the vast majority of cases have been assigned to qualified attorneys. We have been vetting billing carefully and are not submitting fee bills for reimbursement which relate to any attorney who is on a case without the required qualifications.