

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2013-14 Performance Report
Indigent Defense System

AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:

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

LEAD ADMINISTRATOR:

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Executive Director
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GOVERNANCE:

The agency is governed by the Oklahoma Indigent Defense System Board, which appoints the Executive Director, pursuant to the Oklahoma Indigent Defense Act, 22 O.S. §§ 7355, et seq. The Executive Director, as the agency's chief executive officer, performs administrative functions serving the Board the Board is composed of five members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the senate. Current Board members are:

Rod Wiemer, Chair
Jake Jones, III, Vice Chair
Don G. Pope
Randolph S. Meacham
J. Lance Hopkins

The Board does not have any committees or subgroups.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY :

Minutes for agency Board meetings since July 1, 2010 are provided. There is no specific policy regarding Board member attendance.

MODERNIZATION EFFORTS:

The agency continues to implement document scanning in order to reduce the costs of excessive paperwork. The agency has also installed a system to virtualize computer servers as a cost avoidance measure and to simplify server management.

CORE MISSION:

The agency provides no services outside of its core mission, nor is any service duplicated or replicated by another agency.

PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The agency provides services through both staff and contract attorneys. The substantial caseload of non-capital trial services throughout the state are provided by private contract attorneys through a bidding process conducted on a yearly basis. The remainders of services are provided through staff attorneys in geographic regions and practice areas where the agency has been historically unable to secure adequate contract counsel at a reasonable rate. In order to avoid state and federal litigation, the agency contracted with overload private counsel in the past to reduce excessive caseloads, but such contracts have ended due to the lack of funding. The agency also contracts with private counsel where either staff or contract attorneys have a conflict of interest. The agency is not aware of any foundations, for-profit or not-for profit corporations interested in attempting to provide agency functions.