

Oklahoma Senate Committee on Appropriations

2015-2016 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:

Jake Jones, III, Esq.-Chair
Don G. Pope, Esq.-Vice Chair
Dr. Kathryn A. Lafortune
Patrick Cornell, Esq.
Patrick E. Moore, Esq.

The Board does not have any committees or subgroups.

GOVERNANCE ACCOUNTABILITY :

Minutes for agency Board meetings since March 1, 2015 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 is implementing 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.

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PRIVATE ALTERNATIVES:

The agency provides services through both staff and contract attorneys. Coverage of 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 remainder 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. As funding permits, the agency contracts with overload private counsel to reduce excessive caseloads. 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.