

# Judicial Branch Workload Considerations

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# Judicial Branch Workload Formulas

## Background

- Use of workload indicators for more than a decade
- First collaborated with the National Center for State Courts in 2006 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 forth the numbers of judges, assistant district attorneys, and minimum number of magistrates
- Workload formulas provide an objective means for projecting staffing needs



# Judicial Branch Workload Formulas

- **Staffing Resources Needs**

- Based on empirical data
- Focuses on most common work performed
- Provides credibility (National Center for State Courts methodology)
- Requested by the General Assembly
- Provides tools for equitable analysis of local needs

- **Management of Resources**

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



# Judicial Branch Workload Formula Approach

Committee directed, approved by the constituent group

## Case weight approach based on time studies:

- 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 Branch Workload Formula Approach

**Ratio of judges to support staff/trial court administrators (TCAs) for:**

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

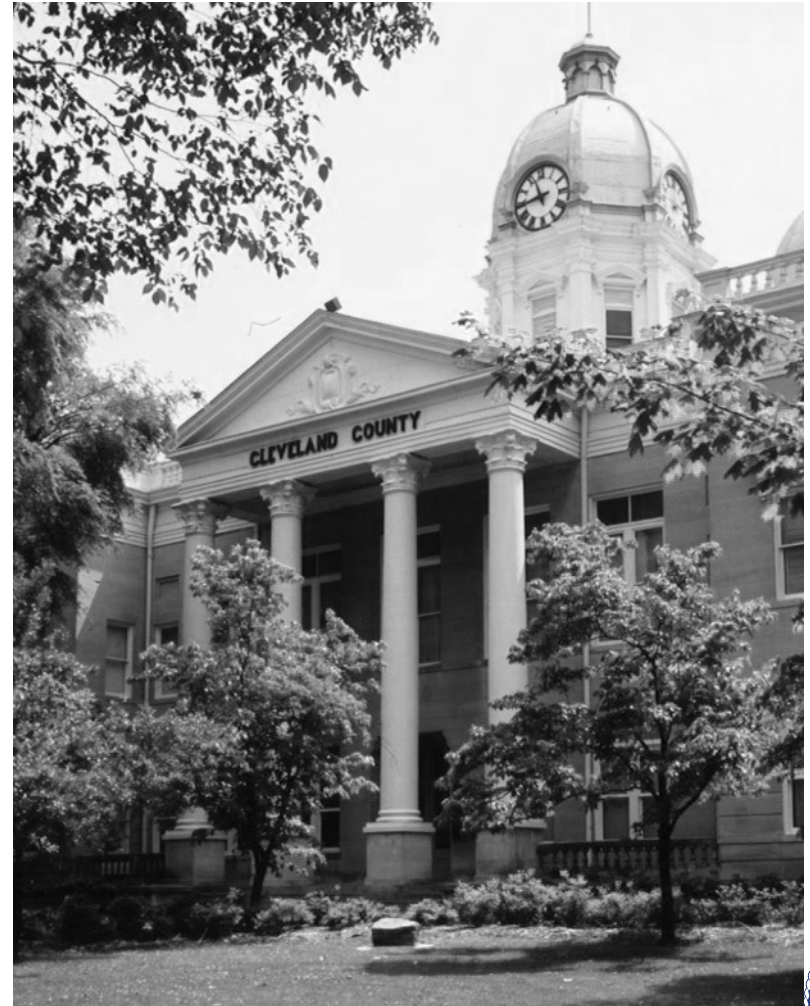
**Caseload based on National Court Appointed Special Advocates standard for:**

- Guardian ad Litem staff



# Effective Workload Formula Process

- 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)
- Computed annually using most recent three years of filings (*i.e.*, current workload formulas are based on July 1, 2014 – June 30, 2017 filings)
- Components updated as necessary to reflect changes in law, procedures, responsibilities, or other factors



# Case Weights –in Minutes

## District Court Judges

- 5.73 Motor vehicle and infractions
- 31.87 Non-motor vehicle
- 34.64 Driving while impaired
- 60.10 Civil domestic
- 68.85 General civil
- 33.73 Child support enforcement
- 144.94 Juvenile



# Case Weights –in Minutes

## Superior Court Judges

- 32 Misdemeanor
- 40 Other felony
- 40 Felony controlled substance
- 117 Felony assault/robbery with a dangerous weapon
- 91 Habitual offender
- 131 Sex offender list offenses (felony and misdemeanor)
- 946 Homicide
- 86 Contract
- 27 Collect on accounts
- 104 Negligence
- 183 Real property
- 31 Administrative appeal/other





# Staffing Needs Calculations

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

Workload formulas acknowledge that not every hour of every week work day is spent on case related activities. There is time included for non-case related activities (e.g., administrative responsibilities)

Not all case-related work occurs in a courtroom. There is a variety of case preparation activities and post-hearing case-related work that occurs outside of the courtroom.





# Thank You

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