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Criminal Justice Informational Forum Judiciary Committee March 11, 2011

Though crime is down in CT- the public defender offices represent a higher percentage of people due to the economic downturn. PDs were appointed to 92,760 cases in FY2010- this is approximately 2,000 cases more than FY 2009

Judicial Districts/Part A Offices

- PDs represent 87% -98% of the incoming cases in the JD/Part A courts, depending on the jurisdiction- (compared to 1980, PDs represented about 56% of the JD cases).
- This percentage has increased 4% in the past 2 years – FY 2008 was 83%.

Geographical Area (GA) Offices

PDs represent anywhere from 50% to 64% of the incoming GA cases, depending on jurisdiction.

- (98%) of felonies now remain in the GA courts rather than being transferred to Part A, and 11.4% - 17% of all criminal cases handled by GA public defenders are Major Felonies.
- OLR research indicates that as of 2010, 61 crimes carry mandatory minimums
- OLR research indicates that since July 07, an additional 37 Public Acts became law with criminal penalties

Death Penalty

- PD Division costs in FY 2010 were \$3.5 million
- 7.2% of the PD Division total appropriation for .06% caseload
- 39% increase over FY 2009
- Increased costs largely attributable to high profile cases statewide
- Expenses of Racial Disparity in Death Penalty Cases Habeas consolidated litigation

Habeas

- PD Habeas Unit opened 371 new cases FY2010- Same as prior FY
- PDS and SPDs resolved 421 cases during FY 2010 (28% increased resolution over prior FY)

Juvenile Offices

- About 54% of juveniles receiving PD social work services were diverted from the delinquency docket altogether
- An additional 34% remained in their communities on probation with services
- Raise the Age implementation should reduce juvenile to adult criminal justice “pipeline” and save the state both human and economic cost.

CJPAC

- Has created better collaboration among agencies in all areas
- PD now has research capability to participate in that subcommittee- this should provide us as well as the other agencies with more complete data about the population we serve.
- RBA possible of entire CT criminal justice system due to CJPAC collaborations