



Oregon Department of Justice – Criminal Justice Division – HB 5018

The Criminal Justice Division is critical to the safety of our state

In 2012, Operation Ice Breaker 2 took down a pernicious ring of meth and heroin dealers that had plagued Benton, Linn, and Marion counties for much of the previous five years. Led by the Criminal Justice Division of the Oregon Department of Justice, the Ice Breaker team arrested 15 and derailed an operation that was distributing an estimated four pounds of meth and two pounds of heroin every week into the mid-Willamette Valley.

But the Criminal Justice Division (CJD) is hamstrung by resource constraints. From a high of 75 full-time employees in the 2007-'09 biennium, employment has fallen to 51. Cutting staff by a third has strained the division to the breaking point. Barring funding this biennium, the TITAN Fusion anti-terrorism unit will close as well, eliminating another four positions. These staff cuts have come as demand for CJD's services have grown from other cash-strapped law enforcement agencies.

CJD cannot continue to do this critical work without significant additional funding

CJD has three funding priorities, in order:

1. Five positions to retain and enhance CJD operations: Two attorneys, two analysts, and one support staff. Two of these positions are exceptional, experienced prosecutors currently handling major cases. Without the additional funds, those two positions will be lost. Cost: \$1.6 million.
2. Six positions to enhance the Internet Crime Against Children unit: Three agents, one attorney, one analyst and a support staffer. Cost: \$1.4 million.
3. Twelve positions for an additional organized crime team: Four attorneys, five agents, two analysts and one support staff. Cost: \$2.5 million.
4. Six positions to retain and keep the TITAN Fusion anti-terrorism unit open: Three investigators and three research analysts. Cost: \$1.5 million.

Cops and prosecutors in the same division

CJD offers a mix of skills unique in Oregon law enforcement. It boasts highly trained and experienced law enforcement officers and analysts who investigate and build cases, working side-by-side with attorneys who prosecute them. These cases include:

- Large-scale, multi-jurisdictional organized crime cases like Ice Breaker 2, which are increasingly reliant on wiretaps and other high-tech surveillance tactics.
- Child pornography cases led by the ICAC unit.
- Public corruption and voter fraud cases.
- CJD steps in when asked by local District Attorneys to handle some of the most complicated cases. (CJ investigated and/or prosecuted 49 cases of murder, attempted murder, and solicitation to commit murder in the 2011-13 biennium. It is currently managing the Klamath County DA's office on an interim basis after the former DA's retirement.)

For more information, please contact Legislative Director Aaron Knott, aaron.d.knott@doj.state.or.us, and Criminal Justice Division Director darin.e.tweedt@doj.state.or.us.