

Criminal Defense Clinics


December 11, 2024

Joint Committee on Addiction &
Community Safety Response





Our Mandate from the Legislature

- In February 2024, legislature allocated **\$2.1 million dollars** to fund misdemeanor criminal defense clinics at all three Oregon law schools
 - Schools were tasked with:
 - Providing intensive, structured training & supervision of **60 law students** to undertake misdemeanor cases
 - Taking on **300-400 misdemeanor cases**
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Law School Clinical Model

- Gold standard in preparing law students for practice
 - **Hands-on experiential learning** for second- and third-year law students, typically in public service fields
 - Students work on real cases under **close supervision of clinical faculty**
 - Similar to clinical rotations for medical students
- Availability of clinics **can be a draw for prospective students**
- All clinics include:
 - Weekly classroom component
 - Intensive training and supervision
 - Emphasis on students leading representation of clients
 - Student certification as Certified Law Students, including second-year students

Structure of Clinics & Counties Served

Lewis & Clark

- Year-long
- Housed at Metropolitan Public Defender
- Serves **Multnomah County & Washington County**

Willamette

- Semester-long
- Housed at Willamette University School of Law
- Serves **Marion County**

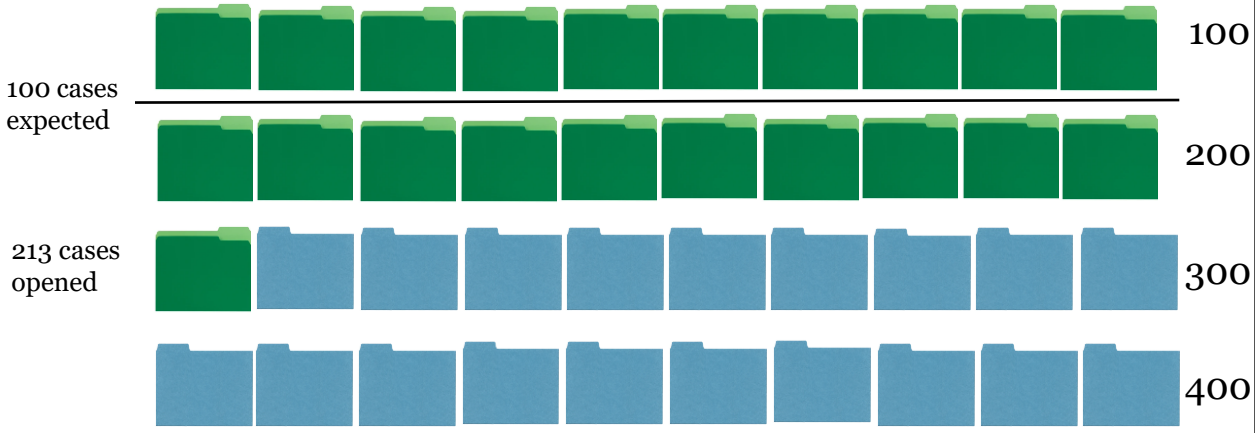
University of Oregon

- Semester-long
- Housed at Multnomah Defenders, Inc. & Lane County Public Defender
- Serves **Multnomah County & Lane County**

Progress Snapshot: First Semester

- Current progress from first semester:
 - We have **30 students** enrolled in the clinics
 - Students have provided public defense services on **213 cases**
- Expected by end of first year:
 - We expect to have a total of **60 students** enrolled in the clinics
 - We expect to provide public defense services on **450-500 cases**

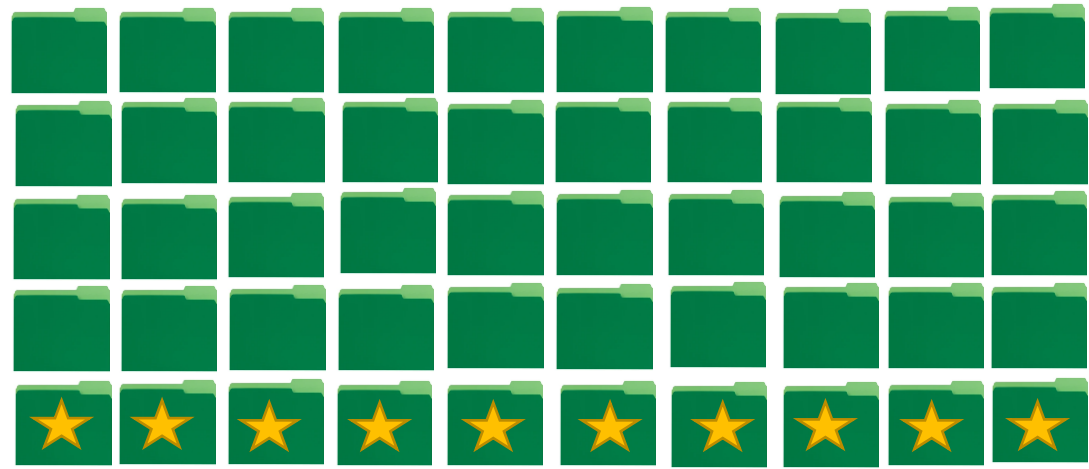
Number of Cases Promised for 1 year v.
Cases Opened in First 3 Months



Promised Number of Students Trained for 1 year v.
Number of Students Trained in First 3 Months



Number of Cases Promised for 1 year v.
Projected Number of Cases for 1 year



Projected to exceed expectations by 100 cases.

Promised Number of Students Trained for 1 year v.
Projected Number of Students Trained for 1 year



Helping to Solve Oregon's Short & Long-Term Public Defense Needs

Short-term Benefits

- Addressing public defense crisis today
 - Over **160 cases taken off unrepresented lists** in Multnomah, Washington, and Marion Counties
 - Assisting with increased burden to public defender offices as a result of recriminalization / HB 4002
- Providing gold-standard **experiential learning** experiences for Oregon law students

Long-Term Benefits

- Building a **pipeline of practice-ready public defenders**
 - Students who have completed clinics will be able to handle lesser felony cases within first year
 - Students will have confidence and comfort to handle demands longer-term
- **Attracting desirable candidates** to Oregon law schools to pursue public defense