



OREGON JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT
Office of the State Court Administrator

February 20, 2026
Submitted Electronically

The Honorable Anthony Broadman, Co-Chair
The Honorable Paul Evans, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
Subcommittee on Public Safety
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Re: Responses to Committee Questions on February 19, 2026

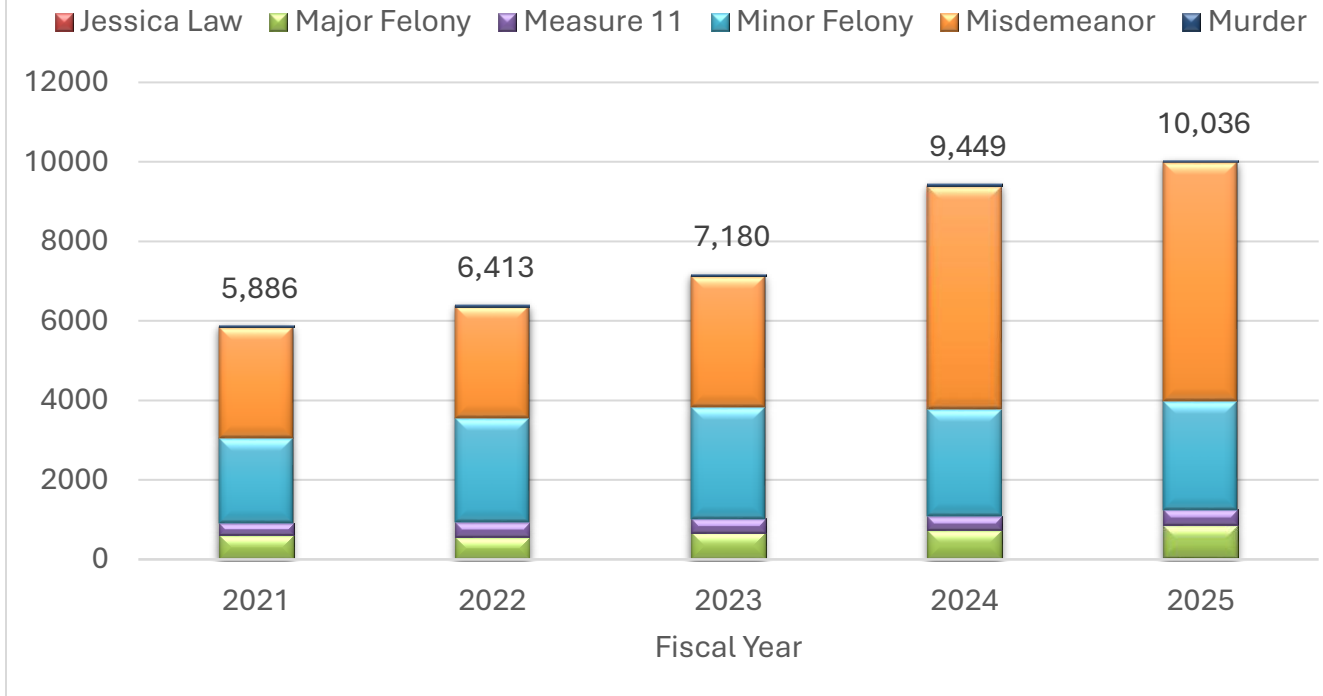
Dear Co-Chair Broadman and Co-Chair Evans:

Thank you again for the opportunity to present information about the Oregon Judicial Department's efforts to respond to *State v. Roberts*, 374 Or 821 (February 5, 2026). We appreciate the committee's interest and engagement. During the hearing, Representative Chotzen asked a question that we could not immediately answer. We are providing the following information as a response to that question.

1. Representative Chotzen asked whether increased criminal case filings were a contributing factor to the unrepresented crisis in Multnomah County.

Between the years of 2021 and 2025, criminal filings in Multnomah County increased by more than 70 percent. The most recent year-over-year change, from 2024 to 2025, is a 6 percent increase. While it is difficult to determine whether this is a contributing factor to the unrepresented crisis, there is no doubt that when case filings increase, more attorneys are needed to provide representation.

Figure 1. Multnomah County Criminal Case Filings



We hope this information is helpful. As indicated during our presentation, we will continue to work with the Oregon Public Defense Commission and others to identify any contributing factors and explore ways to ensure that every person with a right to representation at state expense is provided with an attorney as soon as possible.

Thank you again.

Sincerely,

Nancy J. Cozine
State Court Administrator

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