

LSPP Partner Office Profile

METROPOLITAN PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

HILLSBORO and PORTLAND, OR



PUBLIC DEFENDERS
IN YOUR OFFICE

100

GIDEON'S PROMISE
DEFENDERS

7

KINDS OF CASES
FELLOWS WILL HANDLE

Misdemeanors
& Juvenile

Clients in our Jurisdiction

Oregon has prison mandatory minimums for a large portion of assaultive crimes. In Multnomah County, the level of social work is particularly high due to who the state arrests and prosecutes. In Washington County, the DAs overcharge our clients, which contributes to high trial rates. The majority of our cases have body camera footage and significant discovery. The DAs in both counties have been enabled by statute and the courts to routinely provide late discovery.

Skills Desired

Social work skills are very helpful in Multnomah County and Spanish is very helpful in Washington County.

Popular Attractions

Japanese Garden, Rose Garden, many beautiful parks and farmers markets, lively music scene; professional soccer teams and NBA team, 2 major rivers, 90 minutes to the Oregon coast, skiing, hiking, and Mount Hood.



Portland University Farmer's



Mount Hood



Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

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Important Information

MPD has the Community Law Division (CLD), which is funded by a wide range of grants. The CLD team immigration defense; eviction defense; barrier reduction work in fines/fees/expungement; related civil matters; veterans barrier reduction; and housing. MPD has representation on the Local Public Safety Coordinating Council in both Multnomah and Washington counties. We are active in many county and state work groups related to the criminal legal system. Further, we have several attorneys working on county and state policy, including restorative justice.

Units in Our Public Defender Office

Our Multnomah County (Portland) and Washington County (Hillsboro) offices both have the following teams: major felony trial team; minor felony trial team; misdemeanor trial team; and specialty court team (including arraignments, drug court, mental health court, civil commitments, and specialty dockets). Both counties have Parent-Child Advocacy Divisions (PCAD), which represent youth in juvenile delinquency matters (including potential waiver to adult court) and both parents and children in dependency cases. MPD has a Capital Crimes Team, which represents people facing the death penalty and other murder charges throughout the State of Oregon, but primarily in Multnomah and Washington counties. Lastly, we have our Community Law Division.

Resources

Each attorney has an investigator and legal assistant as part of their team. In Oregon, public defenders can seek funds for experts from the state agency, the office of public defense services (OPDS), for both consultation, assessments, and trial.

In the News

[“Oregon lawmakers agree to \\$12 million band-aid for ailing public defense system”](#)

[“Pandemic pushes Oregon’s public defender system to the brink”](#)

