

Office of State Public Defender

Audit Objective: *(what the audit intends to accomplish or questions auditors will answer)*

- Determine if the Office of the State Public Defender (OPD) manages its staff and contract attorney workforce to provide cost-efficient and competent indigent legal services.

Audit Scope: *(the boundary of the audit & subject matter auditors will assess)*

We are examining OPD's management of staff and contract attorney workforce across all OPD regions. Our review will include information for FY2018 and FY2019. Audit work includes:

- Review policies, procedures, and reports from the department
- Review attorney evaluation practices and performance measurement for both contractors and FTE attorney, including reviewing available evaluations and complaints
- Interview other states and review related policy, statute, and rules
- Visit a sample of regional offices for the Public Defender and Conflicts Divisions
- Analyze cost-effectiveness of different regions, divisions, and attorney types
- Analyze complaints data and court data to assess client outcomes and attorney performance
- Survey OPD FTE attorneys, including managers, to obtain their perceptions of OPD practices and their workload
- Survey private attorneys in Montana to obtain their perceptions of the OPD contract attorney system, including their experiences as a contract attorney, if relevant
- Conduct a spatial analysis of attorney capacity & demand, including average distances client cases are from their assigned attorneys