

**SJR 40 Study of Prosecution Services
Analysis of Available County Data:
A Briefing Packet**

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The following packet contains certain available county data in spreadsheet format sorted six different ways to facilitate further analysis and comparisons. Summary bullet points for each spreadsheet are included before the spreadsheet.

The six spreadsheets in this packet are as follows:

- #1 - Sorted Alphabetical by County
- #2 - Sorted by Population
- #3 - Sorted by Number of Felony Cases Closed
- #4 - Sorted by Total Salary of the County Attorney
- #5 - Sorted by Full-Time or Part-Time County Attorney Status
- #6 - Sorted by County Taxable Valuation

Spreadsheet #1: Data Sorted by County (Alphabetically)

Notes for this and all subsequent spreadsheets in this packet:

- ☞ Musselshell and Golden Valley Counties share a county attorney, who is part-time in each county.
- ☞ Petroleum County reported that its part-time county attorney worked 8 hours in FY 05. The remainder of the counties with part-time county attorneys are paid based on a 20-hour to 24-hour week work. All of the full-time county attorneys were paid based on a 40-hour work week.
- ☞ The data in columns marked with an asterisk (*) is from a 2001 Bureau of Justice Statistics report and may not reflect actual or current caseload. However, it is the best data available for an objective comparison at this time. An analysis of district court and justice court case filings and dispositions in calendar year 2004 could be done, but that data was collected prior to the District Court Council's adoption of uniform case filing standards. However, spreadsheets on case filings and dispositions (provided by the Court Administrator's Office) are attached at the end of this document.

Spreadsheet #2: Data Sorted by Population (least to greatest)

- ☞ County populations range from 493 (Petroleum County) to over 129,000 (Yellowstone County).
- ☞ The median population is 16,1001, but 45 of 56 counties have a population of less than this. Thus, most of the state's population is concentrated in six counties.
- ☞ 50% of the counties (28 counties) have a population of less than 7,100 people, 50% of the counties (28 counties) have a population of greater than 7,100.
- ☞ Part-time county attorneys are most frequent in counties with less than 7,100 people.
- ☞ Full-time county attorneys are most frequent among the counties with more than 7,100 people.
- ☞ Among the counties with less than 7,100 people, Liberty, Granite, Mineral, and Toole Counties stand out as having smaller populations but full-time county attorneys.
- ☞ Among the counties with more than 7,100 people, Glacier, Roosevelt, and Richland Counties stand out as having relatively larger populations, but part-time rather than full-time county attorneys.

Spreadsheet #3: Data Sorted by Number of Felony Cases Closed (as reported by the BJS, 2001)

- ☞ The median number of felony cases closed in 2001 (according to the BJS) is 78, but 41 of 56 counties had fewer than 78 felonies closed in 2001.
- ☞ 50% of the counties (28 counties) had less than 40 felony cases closed in 2001.
- ☞ Among the counties with less than 40 felony cases closed in 2001, Blaine, Teton, Pondera, Madison, Granite, Valley, and Liberty Counties stand out as having full-time county attorneys, while most counties with a similar number of felony cases closed have part-time county attorneys.
- ☞ Among the counties with between 40 and 70 felony cases closed in 2001, Beaverhead County stands out as having only a part-time county attorney, while most counties with a similar number of felony cases closed have full-time county attorneys.
- ☞ Among the counties with more than the median number of felony cases closed (78) in 2001, Glacier County stands out as the only county with a part-time county attorney. Note: Glacier County does have two deputy county attorneys.

Spreadsheet #4: Data Sorted by Total Salary Paid to the County Attorney in FY 05

- ☞ \$57,534 -- rounding to \$58,000 -- is the average salary statewide including both full-time and part-time county attorneys. Almost 50% of the counties (25 counties) pay less than \$58,000.
- ☞ Among the counties paying less than \$58,000, three of the counties (Liberty, Granite, and Pondera Counties) have full-time county attorneys. Thus, these counties pay relatively low salaries. Most of the other counties with salaries less than \$58,000 are paying part-time county attorneys.
- ☞ Among the counties paying more than \$58,000, three counties (Richland, Sweetgrass, and Roosevelt Counties) stand out as having part-time rather than full-time county attorneys, and thus relatively high salaries when compared to the other counties with part-time county attorneys.
- ☞ Among the counties paying less than \$58,000, the number of felony cases closed in 2001 ranges from 0 to 85, with 78 felony cases closed being the median statewide.

Spreadsheet #5: Sorted by Full-Time to Part-Time County Attorneys

☞ Among the counties with full-time county attorneys:

- ▶ populations range from a low of 3,884 (Mineral County) to a high of 129,352 (Yellowstone County).
- ▶ the number of felony cases closed in 2001 ranged from a low of 3 (Liberty County) to a high of 627 (Yellowstone County), with 78 felony cases closed being the statewide median.
- ▶ salaries range from a low of \$33,404 (Liberty County) to a high of \$89,918 in Missoula County.

☞ Among the counties with part-time county attorneys:

- ▶ population ranges from a low of 493 (Petroleum County) to a high of 13,247 (Glacier County).
- ▶ the number of felony cases closed in 2001 ranged from a low of 0 (Garfield County) to a high of 85 (Glacier County), with 78 felony cases closed being the statewide median.
- ▶ not including Petroleum County, salaries range from a low of \$16,941 (Judith Basin County) to a high of \$69,100 (Roosevelt County).

Spreadsheet #6: Data Sorted by Taxable Value (Tax Year 04)

- ☞ The median taxable value is \$31.8 million, with taxable value ranging from a low of \$1.6 million in Petroleum County to a high of \$215.7 million in Yellowstone County.
- ☞ Only 11 counties have taxable values higher than the median; 45 counties have taxable values of less than \$31.8 million.
- ☞ Of the 45 counties with taxable values of less than \$31.8 million:
 - ▶ 20 have full-time county attorneys; 25 have part-time county attorneys.
 - ▶ 20 pay salaries higher than the \$58,000 median salary; 25 pay less than the median salary.
 - ▶ counties paying the higher salaries relative to their counterparts with similar taxable values) typically had a higher number of felony cases closed in 2001.