



To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means Chair
The Honorable Brian S. Dempsey, Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

cc: James Cowdell, Fiscal Analyst, Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Patrick Ford, Fiscal Analyst, House Committee on Way and Means

From: Tara Maguire, Executive Director, Massachusetts District Attorneys Association

Date: February 13, 2015

Re: **Annual Report on the District Attorneys' Prosecution Statistics**

As required by Chapter 165 of the Acts of 2014,¹ the Massachusetts District Attorneys Association submits to the Ways & Means Committees data from the District Attorneys relative to their criminal prosecutions and workloads for fiscal year 2014.

¹ 0340-2100 For the operation of the Massachusetts District Attorneys' Association . . . provided further, that the Massachusetts District Attorneys' Association shall work in conjunction with the 11 district attorneys' offices to prepare and submit a report to the house and senate committees on ways and means and the clerks of the senate and house of representatives not later than January 12, 2015; provided further, that the Association shall provide the 11 district attorneys' offices with an agreed upon template for the report to be filled out; provided further, that the district attorneys' offices shall submit the report in a standard electronic format; provided further, that the template shall include, delineated by charge type: (a) the number of criminal cases initiated by arraignment in each department of the trial court; (b) the number of criminal cases disposed in each department of the trial court; (c) the number of cases appealed to the appeals courts, supreme judicial court, supreme judicial and appeals court single justices and any other appeals court; and (d) the number of cases reviewed but not charged.

While the reports of the individual districts delineating their workloads by charge or category of work are attached, below please find a synopsis of the Fiscal Year 2014 totals per listed category² pertaining to those districts who have reported thus far:

Superior Court/Youthful Offender Arraigned: 100

Superior Court/Youthful Offender Disposed: 80

Juvenile Court Arraigned: 19,775

Juvenile Court Disposed: 28,553

Juvenile Diversion: 3,693

Superior Court (Adult) Arraigned: 87,660

Superior Court (Adult) Disposed: 103,947

District Court (Adult) Arraigned: 617,622

District Court (Adult) Disposed: 701,311

Appellate Work: 3,055+

Cases Reviewed/Not Charged: 20,732

Other Work: 22,958

As evidenced by the attached submissions, the District Attorneys utilize the same case management system (DAMION) but differ significantly in how each office defines its data and inputs and reports that data, as well as whether certain data is even tracked at all. Please also note that, due to severe budget constraints and resulting administrative staffing shortages, not all offices are able to input all cases (especially those in the district courts) into DAMION, resulting in underreporting of cases; and not all offices are able to quickly close their disposed cases out of the system, resulting in over reporting.

The DA offices have utilized DAMION for more than ten years and the current software is nearing end-of-life. With funding provided by the legislature in FY14 and FY15, MDAA is undergoing a process to evaluate and select new case management software. MDAA's plan includes a process to make certain that new software is deployed in a uniform manner, including the use of common

² Data lists total charges with the exception of "Appellate Work," "Cases Reviewed/Not Charged," and "Other Work," all of which measure cases, investigations or a specific event.

definitions. Thus, once implemented, the districts will be able to collect and report common data to the legislature.

Attached to this memo are the individual submissions from nine³ of the eleven District Attorneys' Offices. Where the reporting requirements have changed considerably from those is years past, the District Attorneys have encountered issues interpreting the report fields consistently, extracting specific data from DAMION, and hand-counting information that is not currently captured by DAMION. This has made it difficult to produce these reports in a timely manner. However, the districts are keenly aware of their reporting obligation, and are working diligently to comply as soon as possible. As such, MDAA will readily amend this report upon receipt of additional data from those districts not currently included herein.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or concerns.

³ Please note, Suffolk DA Office's submission is incomplete; they are working to retrieve the remaining data.