



# PARTNER OFFICE PROFILE

## METROPOLITAN PUBLIC DEFENDER OFFICE

HILLSBORO and PORTLAND, OR

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# OF GIDEON'S PROMISE LAWYERS IN YOUR OFFICE?  
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**Does your public defender office have any formal community partnerships or special projects? If so, please describe the partnership, program, or project with community stakeholders.**

Yes. 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.

**What are the different units in your public defender office? Please list any unique divisions your office has and a brief description of the work they do.**

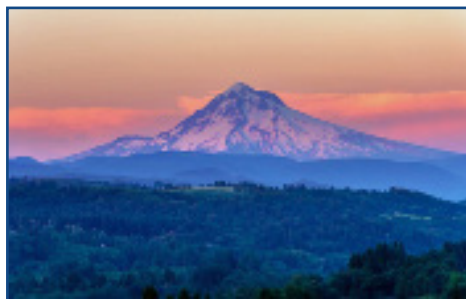
Our Multnomah County (Portland) and Washington County (Hillsboro) offices both have the following teams: major felony trial team; minor felony trial team; misdemeanor trial team; and specialty court team (including arraignments, drug court, mental health court, civil commitments, and specialty dockets). 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.

**What are some popular attractions for attorneys to visit while in the city?**

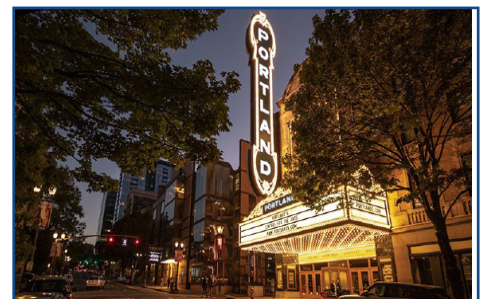
Japanese Garden; Rose Garden; many beautiful parks and farmers markets; lively music scene; professional soccer teams and NBA team; two major rivers; 1 1/2 hours to the Oregon Coast; skiing, hiking, and more on Mount Hood.



Portland University Farmer's



Mount Hood, Oregon



Arlene Schnitzer Concert Hall

101 MARIETTA ST. NW, SUITE 250 ATLANTA, GA 30303



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### Is there anything that distinguishes the clients in your jurisdiction? (i.e. large Native American population, large Spanish-speaking population, etc.)

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 DA's overcharge our clients, which contributes to high trial rates. The majority of our cases have body camera footage and significant discovery. The DA's in both counties have been enabled by statute and the courts to routinely provide late discovery.

### Do you have any specific skills that are required or needed in your office (i.e. social work, Spanish-speaking, etc.)? \*

No, however, social work skills are very helpful in Multnomah County and Spanish is very helpful in Washington county.

### Are resources, such as availability of experts and investigative support, accessible to the staff attorneys?

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"](#)

