



Oregon Judicial Department

Unrepresented Crisis – March 2025

Key Insights

[Unrepresented Trends](#)

The total number of unrepresented persons and unrepresented cases continues to increase, reaching a new high on March 1, 2024, with 4,460 unrepresented persons and 4,881 unrepresented cases ([Figure 1](#) and [Figure 2](#)). While the rate of growth has slowed recently, the number of unrepresented cases has increased by 58% and the number of unrepresented persons has increased by 60% since April 1, 2024. Daily updates are available on the [Unrepresented Dashboard](#) on the OJD website.

[Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody](#)

The average number of days a person with an out-of-custody felony case is unrepresented has increased every month since September 2024, to an average of 118 days in February 2025. An out-of-custody felony case waits approximately 1.5 times longer for appointment of counsel than an out-of-custody misdemeanor case ([Figure 4](#)).

[Unrepresented – In-Custody](#)

After trending downward for three months, the average number of days a person who is in custody and is unrepresented on that case or any other case increased in February 2025 to an average of 25 days, a 108.3% increase from March 2024 ([Figure 5](#)).

[Criminal Case Filings](#)

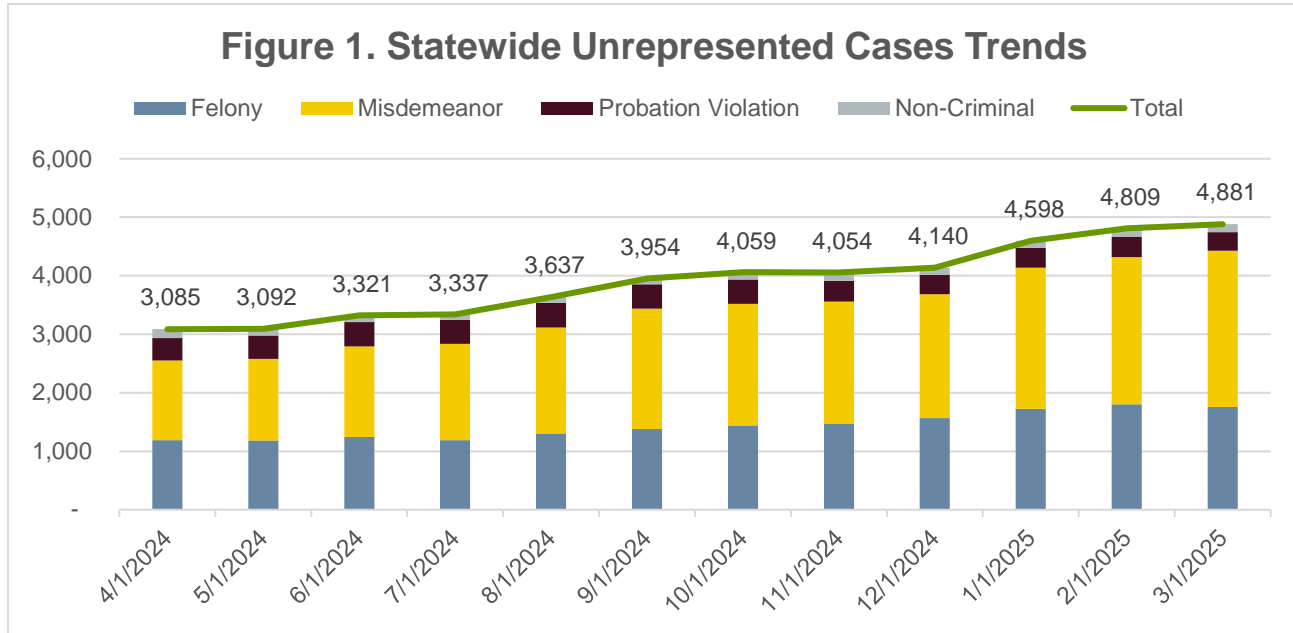
Criminal case filings decreased by 14.5% from the previous month to 5,251 cases filed in February 2025 ([Figure 6](#)).

[Unrepresented by County](#)

Multnomah, Marion, Jackson, Washington, Douglas, Klamath, Coos, and Union counties have the highest number of unrepresented persons in Oregon ([Figure 7](#)). Like Klamath County, Union County recently lost an attorney, causing a 135% increase in the number of unrepresented persons between February and March 2025.

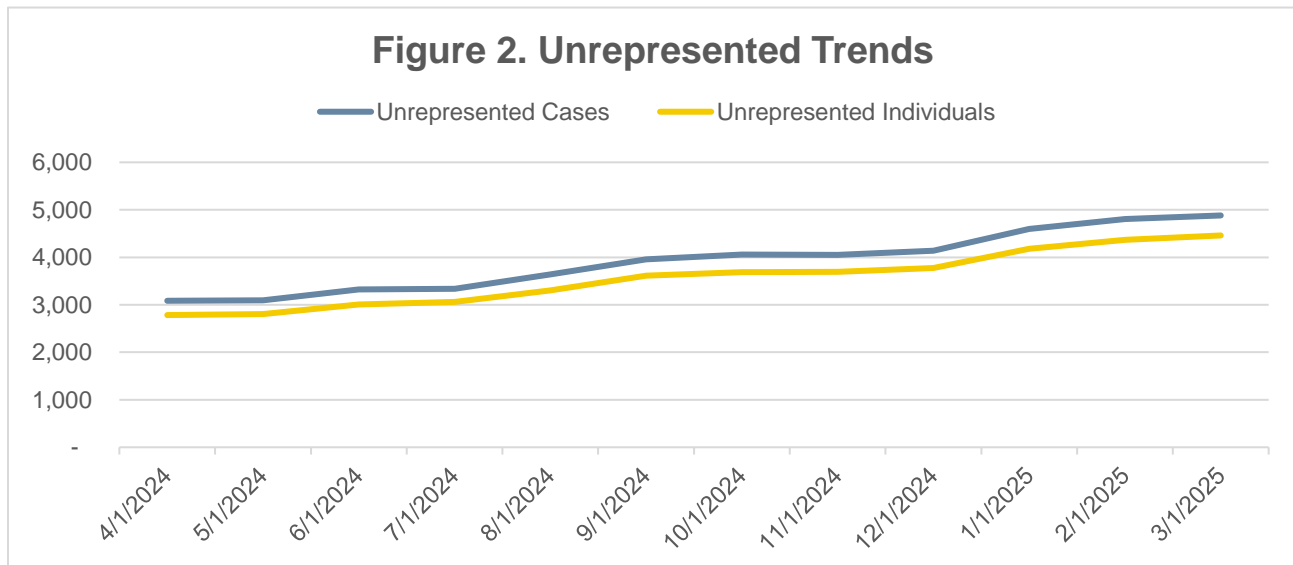
Unrepresented Trends

Figure 1 shows the number of unrepresented cases by case type. **A new high was reached on March 1, 2025, with 4,881 unrepresented cases.** The number of unrepresented misdemeanor cases increased between February and March 2025 by 6%; however, the number of unrepresented felony, probation violation, and non-criminal cases decreased.



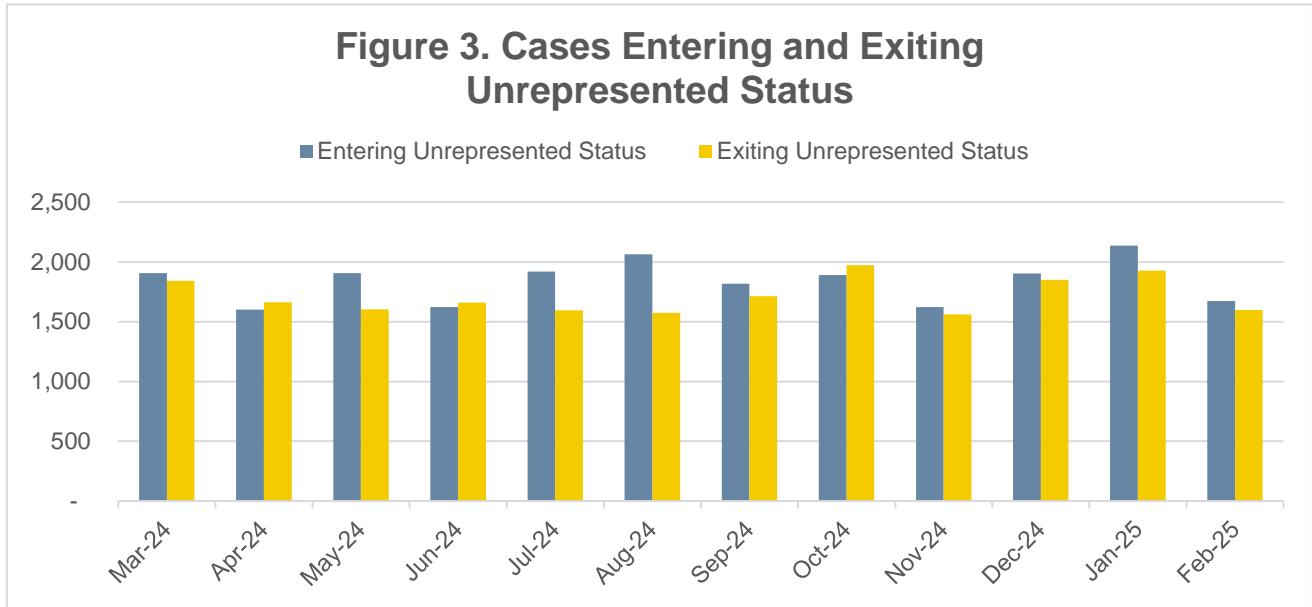
Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Figure 2 shows the number of unrepresented cases and unrepresented individuals. **Another new record high was reached on March 1, 2025, with 4,460 unrepresented individuals.** The rate of growth for both unrepresented cases and unrepresented individuals has been decreasing in the past two months, after an increase of more than 10% between December 2024 and January 2025.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

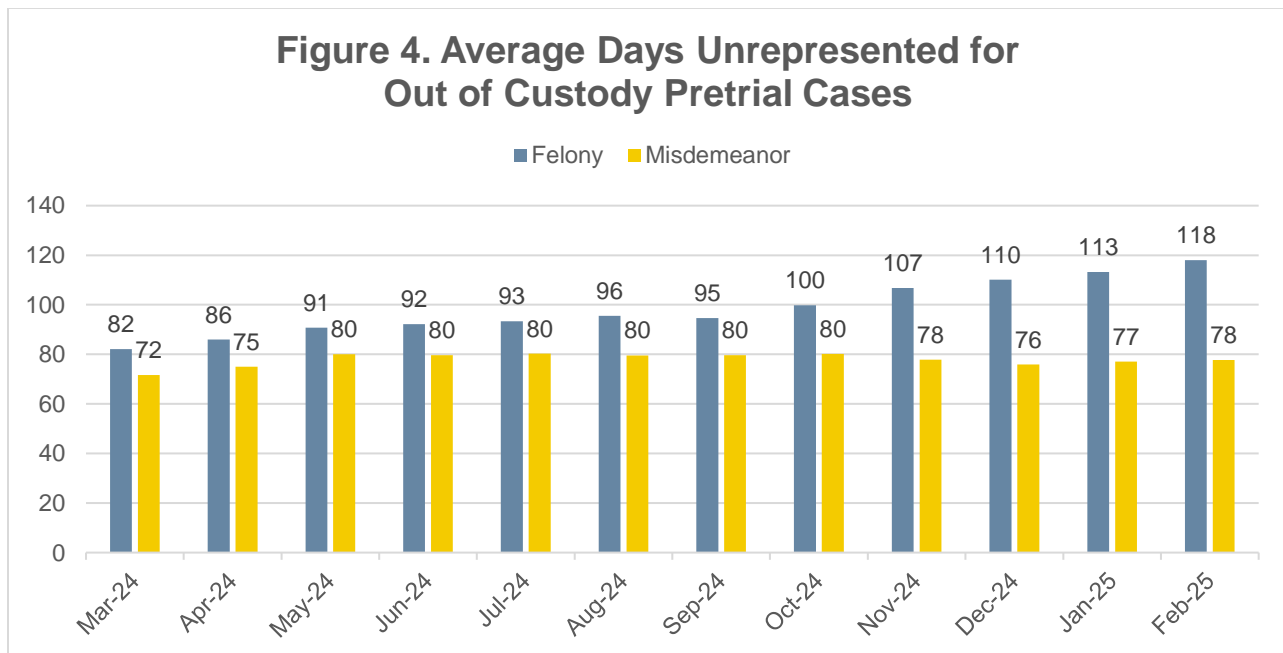
Figure 3 shows the number of cases entering and exiting the unrepresented list each month. More cases entered the list than exited for the fourth consecutive month, and in nine of the last 12 months.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented – Out-of-Custody

Figure 4 shows trends in the average number of days an out-of-custody felony or misdemeanor case is unrepresented by month. The average number of days an out-of-custody felony case is unrepresented continues to increase, reaching an average of 118 days in February 2025, a 43.9% increase from March 2024.

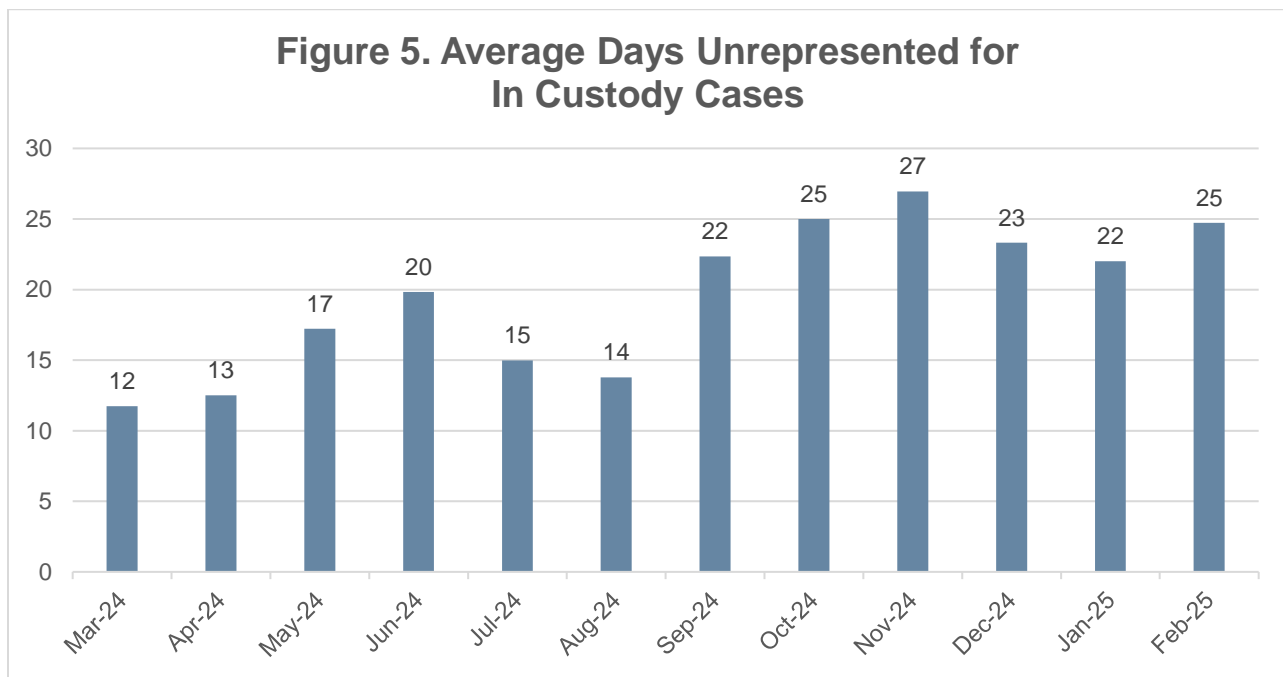


Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented – In-Custody

Figure 5 shows trends in the average number of days a person is both in custody and is unrepresented in any case. The average number of days a person in custody and unrepresented on any case increased in February 2025 to an average of 25 days, a 108% increase from March 2024.

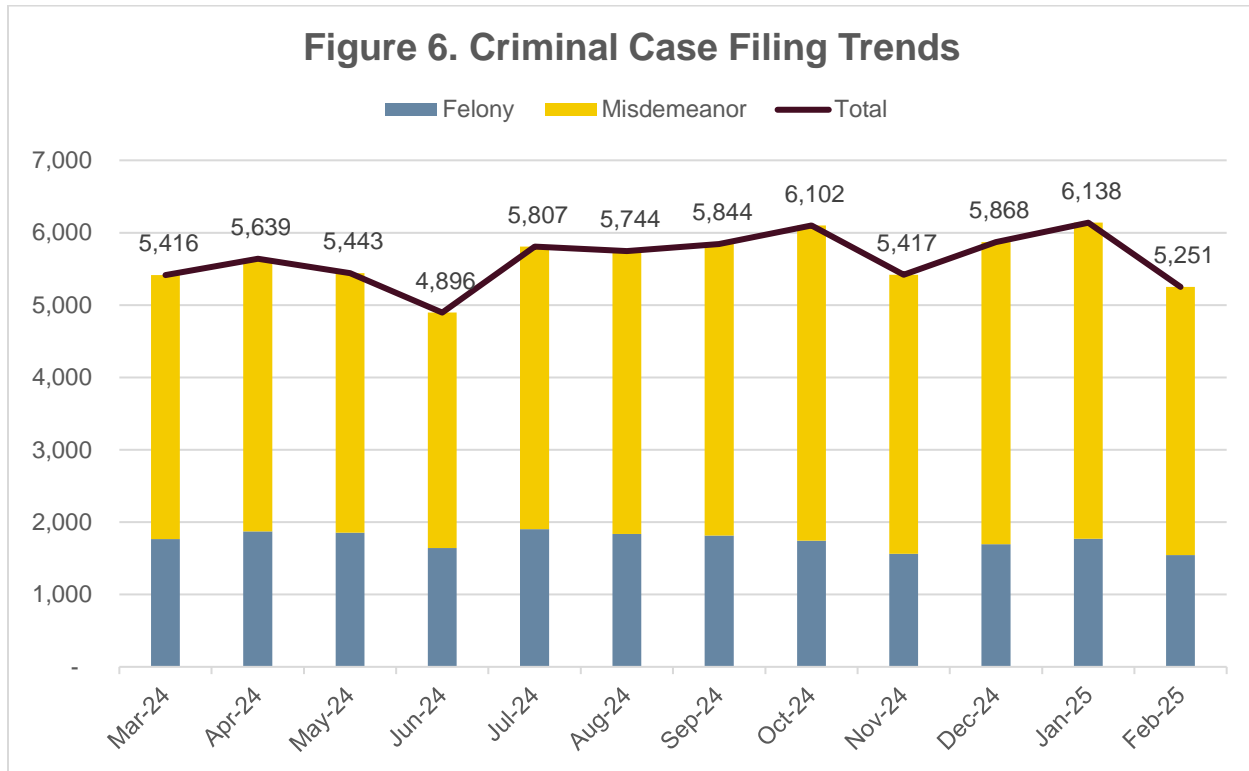
This chart primarily consists of people who are in custody and are unrepresented either on that in-custody case, another in-custody case, or an out-of-custody case. Because of the variety of circumstances in which being represented and unrepresented in different cases can occur while a person is in custody, this creates complexity in ensuring a person has appointed counsel on all their pending cases. If a person is being held in custody for reasons other than the unrepresented case, they might not be prioritized for appointment of counsel by OPDC because they will remain in custody for other reasons.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Criminal Case Filings

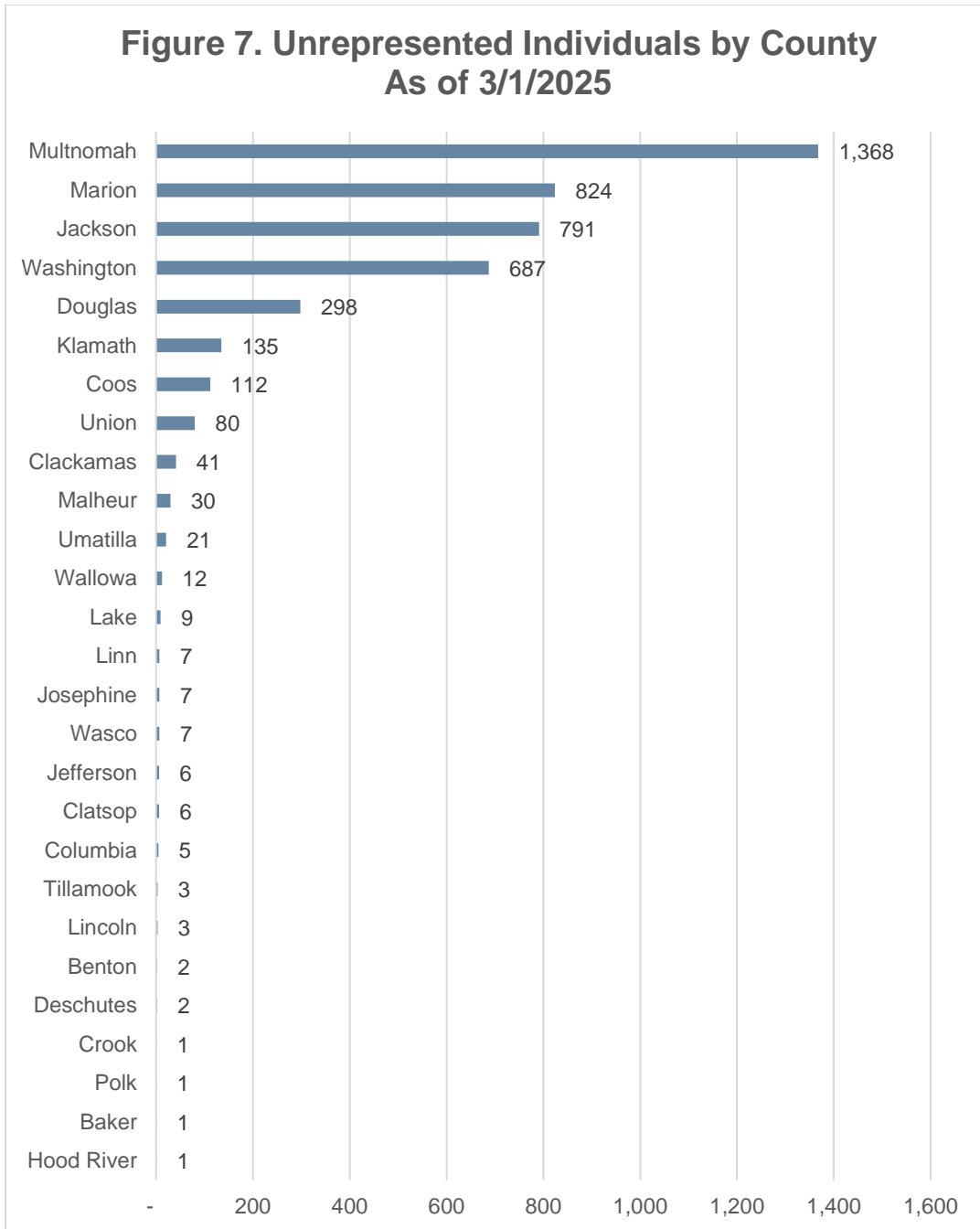
Figure 6 shows the criminal case filing trends since March 2024. Criminal case filings decreased to 5,251 cases, a 14.5% decrease from January 2025. Criminal case filings decreased in most counties with the largest unrepresented populations.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).

Unrepresented by County

Figure 7 shows the number of unrepresented persons by county as of March 1, 2025. Multnomah, Marion, Jackson, Washington, Douglas, Klamath, and Coos counties have the highest number of unrepresented persons in Oregon. The county with the next highest number of unrepresented individuals is Union, with 80 unrepresented individuals, a 135.3% increase from February 13, 2025. Like Klamath County, which recently saw a sudden increase in unrepresented individuals, a defense attorney recently left Union County.



Source: OJD Odyssey Data (eCourt).