



# Assessing Judgeship Needs

through the use of

# The Weighted Caseload Model

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Case weights account for variations in complexity per each case-type and assign **different weights for different types of cases.**

Case weights indicate how much more or less **time-consuming** one type of case is compared to other types of cases.

The Weighted Caseload Model translates **caseload into workload** and can provide a clear and reliable answer to the question of **:how many judges are needed in each court.**



# The Weighted Caseload Model

Phase 1

- Case weights x Case fillings\* = Annual Weighted Caseload (AWC)

Phase 2

- AWC / The Annual Judicial work time available per 1 judge = **Judge Demand**

Phase 3

- Judge Availability - Judge Demand = Judicial Resource Need

# The Design of the Case Weights

Case Weights can be generated using one of two approaches:

**An Event-based  
Case Weight Design**

**OR**

**A “black box”  
Case Weight Design**

# Case Related Events



# The Event-based Case-Weight Design

1. Identifying the Case-Related Events that occur in all case types and require judicial work-time.
2. Determining the average frequency with which every event occurs in each case-type.
3. Collecting self-reports from Judges on the amount of work-time they spend on each event per each case type.
4. Multiplying the Event-Frequency by the average work-time per event.

# The Event-Based Case-Weight formula

Event	Event Frequency	Work-time per event	Work-time per case
A	3	10 minutes	30 min
B	3	30 minutes	90 min
C	5	15 minutes	70 min
E	1	75 minutes	75 min
Final Case Weight		265 minutes= 4.4 hours	

# The Annual Weighted Caseload

- The annual weighted caseload of a court, or otherwise known as the Case-Related Workload, represents the average amount of judicial time (minutes, hours) required to resolve all the cases filled during one year.
- The annual weighted caseload is generated through multiplying the number of fillings of each case type by the weight of that case type, added up over all the case types.



# For Example....



800 annual filings: 400 small claim cases, 400 class action cases.

The weight of a small claim case: 2 hours

The weight of a class action case: 18 hours

The Annual Weighted Caseload:

$$400 \times 2h + 400 \times 18h = \underline{\underline{8,000}} \text{ judicial working hours}$$



# The Judge Year value

The Judge-Year value is the total amount of time a judge has available for case-related-activities over the course of one year.

## EXAMPLE

365 days - 52 weekends days - 15 education days - 15

holidays - 60 leave days (vacation, illness) = **223 days**

# The Judge-Day value

The Judge-Day value represents the average amount of time a judge spends working on case-related-activities each work day.

## EXAMPLE

9 hours work day – 1 hour for rest breaks – 1.5 hour of non-case-related work = **6.5 hours**

# The Annual Judicial work-time supply

223 workdays X 6.5 daily work hours

=

**1,449.5 available hours**

for case-related activity in the course of one year  
per a single judge



**I AM  
AVAILABLE**

**Phase I:** Calculating The Annual Weighted Caseload = AWC = **8,000 hours**

**Phase II:** Dividing the Annual Weighted Caseload in the Judge year value (1,449.5 hours) yields The Judge Demand  
=  $8,000 / 1449.5 = 5.15$  judges

**Phase III:** judge availability (supply) – judge demand  
= The Judicial Resource Need  
For example:  $4 - 5.15 = -1.15$

# The result

An objective and standardized measure of judicial workload that provides an effective tool for:

- negotiating with funding authorities;
- appropriately targeting reductions in judgeships necessitated by budget shortfalls and changing demographics;
- redrawing jurisdictional boundaries to use existing resources more effectively and enhance access to justice.

# The Methodology

**Time study**

**VS.**

**Time Estimates**



# Preliminary Stages of a Weighted Caseload Research

1. Establishing an advisory committee comprised of experienced members of the judiciary that will be charged with:
  - deciding the data collection methodology, the number of participants and the duration of the data collection;
  - deciding how many and which case-types will be included in the data collection;
  - deciding on a list of all activities/events requiring work-time, that will be divided into case-related work and non-case-related work;
  - deciding the judge-year and judge-day values;
  - reviewing the initial case weights to determine whether they are reasonable and representative of the average judicial workload in each case type;
  - deciding on the relevant qualitative adjustments and approving the final case weights.



2. Extracting state-wide data from the case management system to determine the average frequency with which every event occurs in each case-type category.
3. Designing a manual time tracking form (a judicial time log) that judges will use to track their working time (in a time study). Alternatively, designing an estimation questionnaire that participants will fill out in the focus-group meetings (Delphy method).
4. Establishing an online data entry site onto which the participants will be asked to enter their work-time information.
5. Completing a test run to the judicial time-log and to online data entry site.
6. Developing a training program to educate and involve the judges in the research efforts, to insure their cooperation and to improve the accuracy and the reliability of their self reports.