



Felony Case Processing Pilot Project

Commonwealth's Attorney Felony Pilot Program

Presented by:

- » Thomas B. Wine, Commonwealth's Attorney
- » Patrick Jablonski, Ph.D., Senior Researcher

Overview

» Kentucky has Bifurcated System of Prosecution

- **County Attorney** responsible for prosecuting
 - All misdemeanors
 - Felonies in District Court through probable cause hearing
- **Commonwealth's Attorney** responsible for prosecuting
 - Felonies in Circuit Court
- Felonies originate in District Court
 - County Attorney in District Court can
 - Resolve case by amending down or dismissing
 - Refer to Rocket Docket
 - Conduct probable cause hearing & refer case to Grand Jury
 - Once case transferred, Commonwealth's Attorney screens case for appropriate charging, amendment, and indictment

Overview

» Two Processes for a Felony Case in Circuit Court

▪ Standard Process

- District Court probable cause hearing
- Grand Jury indictment
- Multiple Circuit Court events
- 2014 Standard Process disposition time = 398 days (median)

▪ Rocket Docket Process (expedited)

- Defendant signs agreement to enter early guilty plea
- Bypasses probable cause hearing, grand jury presentation, discovery, and other hearings and motions
- 30.7% of felony Circuit Court cases
- 2014 Rocket Docket disposition time = 106 days (median)

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Felony Case Process

» Standard Process

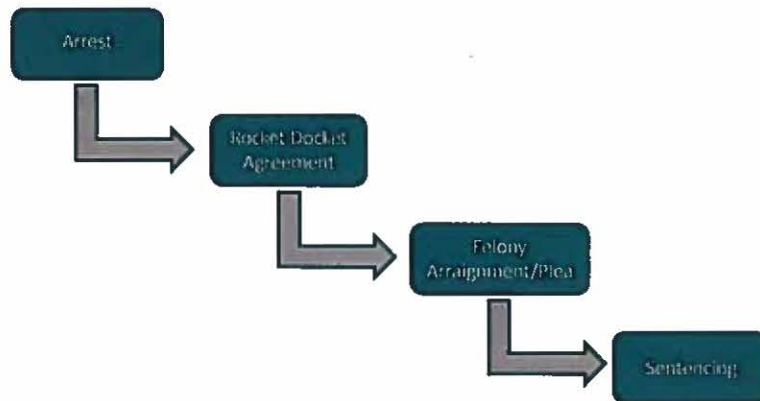


Median case disposition time in 2014 = 398 days

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Felony Case Process

» Rocket Docket Process



Median case disposition time in 2014 = 106 days

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Felony Pilot Program

» Felony Case Processing Pilot Program

- Began November 20, 2014
- Pilot Description
 - Two Assistant Commonwealth's Attorneys process felony cases throughout District Court
 - Pilot testing in two of ten courtrooms
- Early Commonwealth's Attorney case involvement anticipated to reduce case processing time by
 - Eliminating duplicate work (e.g., case screening)
 - Receiving law enforcement packets faster
 - Conducting earlier screening and case triage
 - Identifying more Rocket Docket cases earlier
 - Reducing time for Grand Jury preparation

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Felony Pilot Program

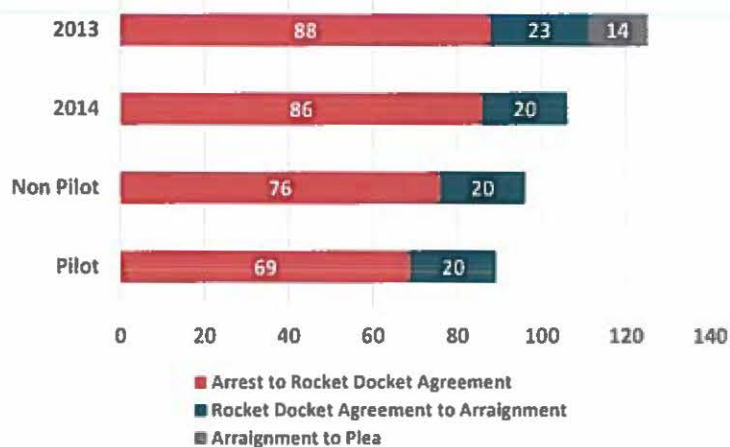
» Preliminary Results

- Cannot yet determine full project impact yet we can
 - Assess early impact of Rocket Docket
 - Assess early impact of standard case processing through the indictment stage
- Results as of February 28, 2015
 - 1,196 pilot cases
 - Rocket Docket Case Processing
 - 88 Pilot; 291 Non-Pilot cases
 - Standard Case Processing
 - 92 Pilot; 457 Non-Pilot cases

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Felony Pilot Program

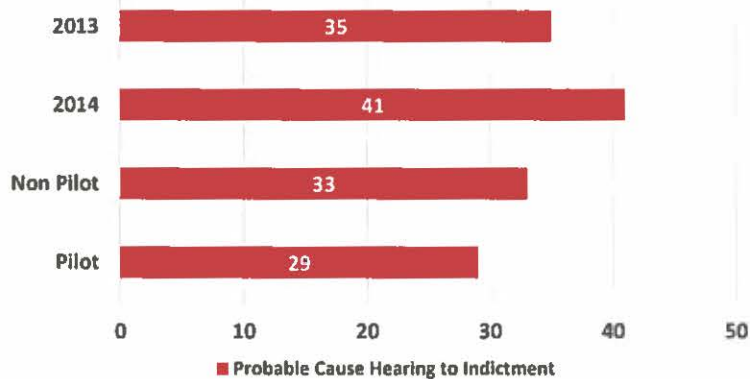
» Rocket Docket Case Processing



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Felony Pilot Program

» Standard Case Processing



For standard cases, not enough time has passed to provide analysis beyond indictment

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» Preliminary Findings – Case Processing Time

- Pilot cases resolve more quickly via Rocket Docket and standard case processing
 - Seven (7) days Rocket Docket
 - Four (4) days standard case processing (PC to indictment)
- Increase in Rocket Docket cases
 - 44 per pilot courtroom
 - 36.4 per non-pilot courtroom
- Increased Rocket Docket cases will have a large impact
 - 2014 Rocket Docket disposition time = 106 days
 - 2014 standard case disposition time = 398 days
 - Savings of 292 days per case

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» Preliminary Findings – Additional Benefits

- Treatment needs are identified earlier as well as referrals for treatment and intervention for substance dependent defendants
- Significant reduction in the number of court appearances results in reductions in
 - Law enforcement courtroom time/compensation
 - Court time, Commonwealth's Attorney time, and defense attorney time and expense
 - Missed court appearances, bench warrants, and related court clerk, sheriff's office, law enforcement, jail space, and court resources

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Felony Pilot Program

» Next Steps

- Continue to monitor pilot performance case processing times for both Rocket Docket and non Rocket Docket cases
- Follow standard cases through the entire process and assess pilot impact at all major case processing points
- Analyze potential differences in felony cases that are resolved in District Court
 - Dismissal
 - Amendment
 - Placement in community
- Examine potential differences in the number of cases proceeding via Rocket Docket

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