



SUPREME COURT
STATE OF ARIZONA



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
HIGHWAY
SAFETY

Misdemeanor
DUI - Getting
Across the Finish
Line While You
are Still Standing

Criminal Misdemeanor DUI Time Standards

Getting Across the
Finish Line While You
Are Still Standing

December 2025



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Panelists

- Hon. Charles Adornetto, Wickenburg Town Court
- Darlene Cortez, San Luis Municipal Court
- Jennifer Curtiss, Tempe Municipal Court
- Hon. Craig Jennings, Avondale City Court
- Hon. Jerry Landau, Administrative Office of the Courts
- Louis Santaella, City of Scottsdale
- David Ward, Phoenix Public Defender's Office



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Time Standards Overview Video



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“Ultimately, when the public sees our dedication to prompt and equitable justice, their trust and confidence in our courts grow. Each of us plays a vital role in upholding that trust.”

- Chief Justice Ann. A Scott Timmer



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Agenda

- We know why DUI cases take time to dispose. The question is: How do we reverse the trend?
- Overview on Caseflow Management
- Panel Discussion - Challenges in Achieving Time Standards in a DUI case



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Agenda, *continued*

- Prosecutor Viewpoint on Timely Resolution of a DUI case
- Defense Attorney Viewpoint on Timely Resolution of a DUI case
- How We Can Improve
- The Future of Time Standards



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Caseflow Management



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- ❑ Caseflow management is the system a court chooses to control the legal process by scheduling, arranging, and conducting key procedural events.
- ❑ It includes judicial responsibility over the legal process, with events and settings as firm dates with meaningful outcomes.
- ❑ Examples: Designating a caseflow manager, making changes to the calendars, and identifying case age on case files

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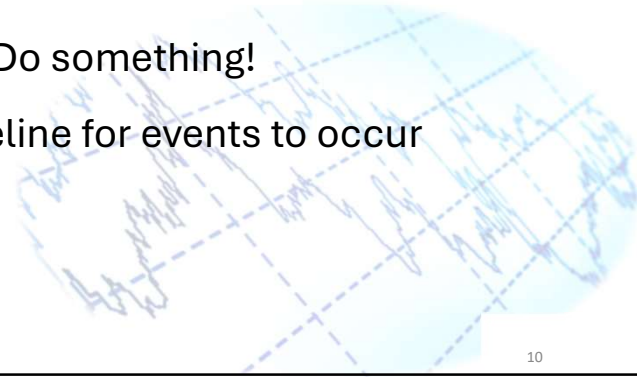
Caseflow management requires cooperation, communication, and commitment from multiple parties and agencies.

- Meeting with justice partners – Essential to making this work!
 - Discussing issues and making plans
 - Setting expectations
 - Communicating and following up
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Judge's role in ensuring caseflow management

- Resolving the case while ensuring justice, due process, and victim's rights
 - Meaningful hearing dates – Do something!
 - A short and reasonable timeline for events to occur
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Judge's role in ensuring caseflow management, continued

- Limitation on continuances
- Firm trial dates
- Avoid issuing an OSC in lieu of a warrant
- Adoption of a plea cutoff policy
- Don't put off sentencing to delay the commitment order

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Court administrator's role in caseflow management

- Reviewing and sharing data from reports
- Discussing data and enacting change when needed
- Ensuring staff receive training and address errors promptly
- Providing tools to judges and court staff when possible

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Example of Time Standards Calendar Day Calculator

	A	B	C	D	E
1	MISDEMEANOR DUI			MISDEMEANORS (NOT DUI)	
2	FILING DATE	11/10/2025		FILING DATE	11/10/2025
3	180 days	5/9/2026		60 days	1/9/2026
4	240 days	7/8/2026		90 days	2/8/2026
5				180 days	5/9/2026
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Data Entry affects case age and report results

- Dispositions must be entered on cases for them to appear on time to disposition report
- Excluded time calculations are also dependent on specific docket events being entered
- If data entry is not correct, cases will display incorrectly
- Updated court training and procedure manuals are important

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The “Math” of Caseflow Management and Time Standards

Judicial Control of Cases

+

Correct Data Entry

=

Timely resolution of cases and accurate reports

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Challenges in Achieving DUI Time Standards



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DUI Time Standards – Internal Factors

- Judicial Case Management
- Continuance Policy
- Shorter continuances
- “Continuances for discovery”
- Trial Management Conference
- Motion Practice



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DUI Time Standards – Internal Factors, *continued*


- Multi-Agency Coordination
- Prosecutor Plea Offers
- Use of Judges Pro-Tem
- Availability of Jurors in rural areas
- Availability of Interpreters
- Data for judges
- Judicial Training



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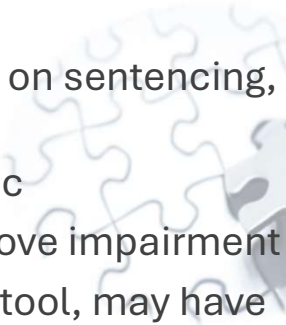
DUI Time Standards – External Factors

- Disclosure; Blood Alcohol/Drug Analysis
 - Disclosure; Body Worn Cameras
 - Multiple DUI Charges in virtually every case
 - “Officer Interview” Excuse
 - Availability of prosecutor and defense attorney
 - Prosecutor Plea Offers
 - Availability of Criminalists
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DUI Time Standards – External Factors, continued

- Mandatory jail
 - Immigration Issues
 - 28-1382 (I), Ignition Interlock; effect on sentencing, delayed sentencing
 - Remote Pleas; virtual and telephonic
 - Marijuana Related DUI; having to prove impairment
 - MVD Hearings; used as a discovery tool, may have impact on plea
 - Second sample testing
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Prosecutor Viewpoints



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Prosecutor's Viewpoints



- **Commitment to Public Safety:** Prosecutors play a critical role in ensuring DUI cases are resolved promptly to protect the community and uphold the law and we are committed to public safety.
- **Plea Negotiations:** Efficient plea offer practices, with clear deadlines and communication, can reduce trial rates and expedite case resolution.

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Prosecutor's Viewpoints, continued



- **Challenges:** Prosecutors face obstacles such as late evidence, complex multi-charge cases, and resource constraints, but remain committed to working with the court and defense to meet established timelines.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Prosecutors welcome ongoing training, data sharing, and feedback to improve processes and outcomes for all parties.

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Defense Attorney Viewpoints



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Defense Attorney Viewpoints

#1 We need to be sure that this endeavor is not a solution in search of a problem



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Defense Attorney Viewpoints, continued

#2 We also need to remember that DUIs are a unique breed of criminal charge:

- Unique Defendants
- Unique Complications
- Unique Consequences (both direct and collateral)



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Defense Attorney Viewpoints, continued

#3 We need to trust and rely on our Judges



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**How Can
We Improve
DUI Case
Processing?**



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Questions to Consider

- What has worked at your court?
- What have you tried but hasn't worked?
- What is one idea from today that you will take back to your court?
- What other information would be helpful for you?



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The Future of Time Standards



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The Future of Time Standards



- Potential future publishing of state and county data
- Potential A.O. for judges to acknowledge their data during annual July report submittal to AOC
- Continued monitoring of data by AOC and court leadership

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**Questions
Comments
Feedback**

Thank You

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MISDEMEANOR DUI	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
180 days	5/9/2026
240 days	7/8/2026

MISDEMEANORS (NOT DUI)	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
60 days	1/9/2026
90 days	2/8/2026
180 days	5/9/2026

EX PARTE OOP (PO,IAH, IAWH)	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
24 hours	11/11/2025

CONTESTED OOP (PO, IAH, IAWH)	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
5 days (IF exclusive use of home)	11/15/2025
10 days	11/20/2025
30 days	12/10/2025

CIVIL TRAFFIC	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
60 days	1/9/2026
90 days	2/8/2026

CIVIL ORDINANCE	
FILING DATE	11/10/2025
60 days	1/9/2026
90 days	2/8/2026
180 days	5/9/2026