

AZ JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

*Criminal
Misdemeanor DUI
Time Standards*



CRIMINAL MISDEMEANOR DUI TIME STANDARDS

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Time Standards Calendar Day Calculator21

Criminal Misdemeanor DUI Time Standards

Getting Across the
Finish Line While You
Are Still Standing

June 2026



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Panelists

- Hon. Jill Davis, Lake Havasu City Justice Court
- Hon. Jerry Landau, LaPaz County Superior Court
- James Heard, Scottsdale City Attorney's Office
- Christopher Phelps, Scottsdale City Court
- Hon. Lauren Ramirez, Gilbert Municipal Court
- Maia Rodriguez, Coconino County Superior Court
- David Ward, Phoenix Public Defender's Office



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DUI Time Standards Overview



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Azcourts.gov
Arizona Judicial Branch

The mission of the Arizona Judicial Branch is to provide Arizona citizens with an independent, accessible, and integrated judicial system that maintains a high degree of public trust and confidence; serves as an asset by dispensing justice, resolving human disputes, and conducting its administrative functions in a fair, equitable, and just manner; operating efficiently and expeditiously.

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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

- Overview on Caseload Management
- Panel Discussion - Challenges in Achieving Time Standards in a DUI case
- How We Can Improve



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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
- The Future of Time Standards



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Current Misdemeanor DUI Time Standards

- 85% within 180 Days
- 93% within 240 Days
- Filing of complaint (ATTC or long form) through to disposition of all charges
- Time excluded for: pre-adjudication warrants, Rule 11 mental competency, pre-adjudication diversion, special actions, and appeals, and specialty courts/programs

[Link to AOC Time Standards Webpage](#)

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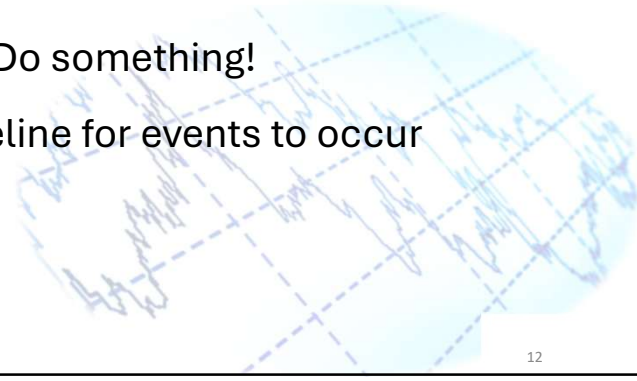
Caseflow management requires cooperation, communication, and commitment from multiple parties and agencies

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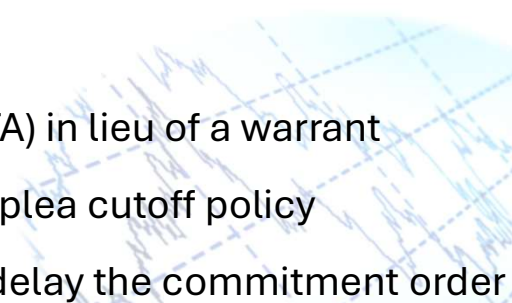
Judge's role in ensuring caseflow management

- 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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Internal Factors - In the Courtroom

- Judicial Case Management
 - Limitation on continuances
 - Set firm trial dates
 - Avoid issuing an OSC (for FTA) in lieu of a warrant
 - Adopt (needs to be flexible) plea cutoff policy
 - Don't put off sentencing to delay the commitment order
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Internal Factors - In the Courtroom

- Develop a Continuance Policy
 - Shorter continuances
 - Question “Continuances for discovery”
 - Hold Trial Management Conferences
 - Timely Motion Practice
 - Utilize Multi-Agency Coordination
 - Ensure there are Timely Prosecutor Plea Offers
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Internal Factors – In the Courtroom

- Use of Judges Pro-Tem
- Availability of Jurors in rural areas
- Availability of Interpreters
- Data for judges
- Judicial Training



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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

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Correct Data Entry

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Timely resolution of cases and accurate reports

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Challenges in Achieving DUI Time Standards



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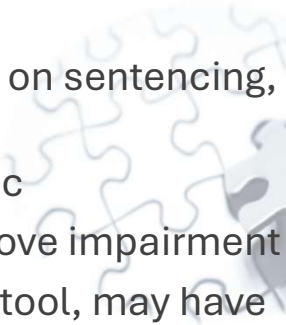
External Factors

- 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 and Negotiations
 - Availability of Criminalists
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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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How Can We Improve DUI Case Processing?



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We want to hear from you

- 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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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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Law Enforcement Viewpoint




Do time standards affect the law enforcement agency or the officer on the street?

[Link to Scientific Analysis Bureau – Department of Public Safety](#)

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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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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