Appendix H

Default Time Values Listed on Circuit Worksheets for Non-Evidentiary Hearing and Conference Events

Blank pages inserted to preserve pagination when printing double-sided copies.

Default Time Values Listed on Circuit Worksheets for Non-Evidentiary Hearing and Conference Events

We derived the default time values for the set of non-evidentiary hearing and conference events that appeared on the circuit worksheets from data reported on page 2 (section 38) of the JS-10 form.

The defaults were based on computation of a simple linear regression equation using input data from N=22,793 monthly reports. The reports spanned three years of data (FY1999–FY2001) collected from active district judges reporting at least eleven months of activity over the fiscal year. Data from three courts were eliminated from the analysis because they reported highly unusual patterns of event activity or were the source of an excessive number of outliers among the independent variables.

Independent variables were incidence counts for arraignment/plea hearings, non-evidentiary sentencing hearings, motion hearings, pretrial conferences, grand jury hearings, and other non-evidentiary hearings. The counts do not distinguish between civil and criminal cases (although arraignment and plea hearings, as well as sentencing hearings, are specific to criminal proceedings).

The dependent variable was the total monthly time expenditure spent on the above proceedings. Total monthly time expenditure was determined by summing the recorded time expenditure for individual days, where daily expenditures were entered in half-hour increments.

Table 1 reports the beta weights and the conversion of beta weights to minutes for each of the independent variables. Grand jury proceedings were included in the analysis because their contribution to time expenditure could not be separated from the total, but grand juries are not included in the case-weighting structure and the regression beta weight is reported only for the sake of completeness. The R-squared value for the model was .80.

Table 1. Regression Equation Results (DV=time expenditure; R-squared=.80)

	Arrgn/Plea Hrgs	Sentencng Hrgs	Motion Hrgs	Pretrial Confs	Grand Jury	Other Hrgs
Beta weights	0.40431	0.47492	0.47345	0.51335	0.37044	0.46025
Conversion to minutes	24	28	28	31	22	28

Table 2 lists the correlation coefficients among the dependent and independent variables.

Table 2. Correlation Matrix

	Arrgn/Plea Hrgs	Sentencng Hrgs	Motion Hrgs	Pretrial Confs	Grand Jury	Other Hrgs
Sentnc Hrgs	0.35					
Motn Hrgs	0.16	0.19				
PTConf	0.07	0.05	0.19			
Grand Jury	0.06	0.01	0.06	-0.00		
Other Hrgs	0.14	0.13	0.19	-0.05	0.04	
Total Time	0.31	0.34	0.41	0.54	0.07	0.30