

Priority: Accountability
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:

Lead Agency: County Attorney
Program Contact: Agnes Sowle

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

This office reviews the legal aspects of county government operations, defends claims against the county, and assists with Federal, State and County legal requirements. The County Attorney collaborates with risk management, provides legal training and strives to provide clients with appropriate advice before legal issues become legal problems.

Program Description

The County Attorney's Office prepares and reviews legal documents including contracts, Ordinances, Resolutions, Board Orders, Executive Rules, Administrative Procedures, bonds and others. It provides legal advice and counsel to the Board, the Chair, the Sheriff, the Auditor, the County departments, offices, advisory boards, commissions and committees. It prepares formal written opinions deemed necessary by the County Attorney regarding significant interpretations of federal and state laws, the Charter, ordinances and other documents. It represents the County and its elected officials and employees in all appropriate legal matters including defense of claims against the County and initiation of claims on the County's behalf.

Program Justification

The County Attorney's Office assists the County's accountability both externally and internally. It helps the County maintain the public's trust and confidence by providing its elected officials and employees with legal information and advice to help them operate in compliance with the law. It protects the County from the financial consequences of accidental losses and preserves the County's assets and public service capabilities from loss, destruction and depletion. It also helps to restore the general fund by initiating collection actions when appropriate. Currently our attorney cost is approximately 1/3 of the hourly rate of outside counsel. The annual client survey shows that 98% of clients indicate that our attorneys helped them meet their objectives ethically.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY05-06)	Current Year Purchased (FY06-07)	Current Year Estimate (FY06-07)	Next Year Offer (FY07-08)
Output	Attorney Direct Service Hours	20,299	21,500	21,000	23,000
Outcome	Client satisfaction - Attorneys help clients achieve objectives	92.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.0%
Outcome	Client satisfactiion - Attorneys respond timely	92.0%	0.0%	0.0%	95.0%
Outcome	Client satisfaction - clients are satisfied or very satisfied	95.0%	95.0%	96.0%	96.0%

Performance Measure - Description

*89% of attorney hours are in direct service of client matters. 11% is expended in administrative functions and professional development, including the mandatory continuing legal education required for licensure.

*Current year estimate lowered due to staff vacancies.

*Outcome is a new measure for FY 06-07.

*Quality measure will be reported annually beginning FY 06-07.

Legal/Contractual Obligation**Revenue/Expense Detail**

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
	2007	2007	2008	2008
Program Expenses				
Personnel	\$0	\$2,221,420	\$0	\$2,537,663
Contracts	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000
Internal Services	\$0	\$314,153	\$0	\$411,435
Subtotal: Direct Exps:	\$0	\$2,671,573	\$0	\$3,085,098
Administration	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Program Support	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal: Other Exps:	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$2,671,573	\$0	\$3,085,098
Program Total:	\$2,671,573		\$3,085,098	
Program FTE	0.00	19.70	0.00	21.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$2,671,573	\$0	\$0
Program Revenue for Admin	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$2,671,573	\$0	\$0

Explanation of Revenues

The County Attorney's Office is funded in the Risk Fund, through County insurance rates.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10014, County Attorney's Office
There are no significant changes for FY 2008.