

Lead Agency: County Attorney
Program Offer Type: Existing Operating
Related Programs:
Program Characteristics:

Program Contact: Agnes Sowle

Executive Summary

The County Attorney's 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.

We are seeing more cases actually going to trial and appeal courts. It may be a result of the increased tort claim limits legislated last year and the Clarke decision, which provides an exception to tort claim limits in some cases. Our attorneys have been extremely successful at both trial and appeals. We are also seeing increased grievances going to arbitration, and SB 400 has increased the number of requests to bargain.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY08-09)	Current Year Purchased (FY09-10)	Current Year Estimate (FY09-10)	Next Year Offer (FY10-11)
Output	Attorney Direct Service Hours	24,610	24,500	24,630	24,500
Outcome	Client satisfaction - Attorneys help clients achieve objectives.	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%	98.0%

Performance Measure - Description

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code establishes an office of the County Attorney and charges the County Attorney to be the chief legal advisor for the County.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2010	2010	2011	2011
Personnel	\$0	\$3,067,841	\$0	\$3,091,375
Contracts	\$0	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$116,000	\$0	\$116,000
Internal Services	\$0	\$400,031	\$0	\$453,201
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$3,603,872	\$0	\$3,680,576
Program Total:	\$3,603,872		\$3,680,576	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	22.80
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$3,603,872	\$0	\$3,680,576
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$3,603,872	\$0	\$3,680,576

Explanation of Revenues

Funding for the County Attorney's Office is generated by a 1.4% charge on County payroll expenses.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10014, County Attorney's Office
No significant changes.