

Lead Agency: County Attorney

Program Contact: Jenny Morf

Program Offer Type: Existing Operating

Related Programs:

Program Characteristics:

Executive Summary

The mission of the Office of County Attorney is to provide the highest quality and cost effective legal advice and representation. The Office reviews and advises on the legal aspects of County government operation, defends claims against the County and its employees, 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 Office of County Attorney prepares and reviews legal documents including contracts, Ordinances, Resolutions, Board Orders, Executive Rules, Administrative Procedures, and others. It provides legal advice and counsel to the Board of County Commissioners, the Chair, the Sheriff, the Auditor, the District Attorney, County Departments, Offices, Advisory Boards, Districts, Commissions and Committees. It prepares formal written opinions deemed necessary by the County Attorney regarding significant interpretations of federal and state laws, the Charter, County Code and other legal requirements. The Office controls and supervises all civil actions and legal proceedings where the County is a party or has a legal interest. The Office represents and defends any legal action, matter or proceeding in any court or tribunal and as requested by the Board.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	Previous Year Actual (FY11-12)	Current Year Purchased (FY12-13)	Current Year Estimate (FY12-13)	Next Year Offer (FY13-14)
Output	Attorney Direct Service Hours	16,527	22,000	18,669	19,000
Outcome	Client Satisfaction- helping clients achieve their objectives	88.0%	90.0%	91.0%	91.0%
Efficiency	Percentage of attorney time dedicated to direct client services	88.0%	90.0%	91.0%	90.0%
Input	Number of tort claims received	150	150	138	140

Performance Measure - Description

The number of attorney direct service hours represents attorney time dedicated to litigation, legal consultation, legal document preparation and review, and client training. Direct service hours exclude time spent on professional development, administrative, clerical, or office related tasks. Office attorneys dedicate the vast majority of their time providing direct services.

A tort claim is a notice of intent to bring a lawsuit for damages against the County or its employees. A downward trend in the number of tort claim notices could be attributed to a number of factors, including consultation with attorneys on policies and practices to establish best practices and avoid unlawful conduct.

Legal/Contractual Obligation

Multnomah County Code Chapter 25 established the Office of County Attorney and charges the County Attorney to be the Chief Legal Officer of the County.

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds	Proposed General Fund	Proposed Other Funds
Program Expenses	2013	2013	2014	2014
Personnel	\$0	\$3,256,698	\$0	\$3,413,100
Contracts	\$0	\$30,000	\$0	\$30,000
Materials & Supplies	\$0	\$119,500	\$0	\$119,500
Internal Services	\$0	\$499,179	\$0	\$530,135
Total GF/non-GF:	\$0	\$3,905,377	\$0	\$4,092,735
Program Total:	\$3,905,377		\$4,092,735	
Program FTE	0.00	23.00	0.00	23.00
Program Revenues				
Fees, Permits & Charges	\$0	\$3,905,377	\$0	\$4,092,735
Total Revenue:	\$0	\$3,905,377	\$0	\$4,092,735

Explanation of Revenues

Funding for the Office of County Attorney is generated through a portion of the liability insurance rate on County payroll expenses.

Significant Program Changes

Last year this program was: #10014, County Attorney's Office