

LAW - 1420

MISSION STATEMENT

County Law neatly defines the Department of Law's (DOL) mission as follows, the County Attorney shall be the legal advisor to the legislator and every county officer in all matters and prosecute and defend all civil actions and proceedings brought by or against the county and its officials. In short, DOL advises, reviews, enforces, and defends all legal issues.

WHO WE SERVE

DOL's client is the corporation of Albany County and its officers.

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

DOL attorneys by the end of the fiscal year will have participated in over 4,500 court appearances involving over 1,800 unique cases, reviewed and drafted over 500 contracts for various departments, provided approximately 400 opinions for County agencies, departments and elected officials, and have handled over 300 property matters.

2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Demonstrating fiscal restraint.** The current economic realities have required government entities to do more with less. In response, DOL has not assigned a single case to outside counsel and has called back four litigation matters from outside counsel. Historically, outside counsel for civil cases (not covered by insurance) costs the County in excess of \$325,000 annually. Through August of this year, DOL has paid \$53,000 for outside counsel. This has been accomplished with fewer lawyers. In 2009 there were 11.5 lawyers (including the Director of Employee Relations who handled labor law matters), prior to consolidation there were 8.5 lawyers. Also there has been an average salary decrease over that time. In 2009 the average salary was \$73,100, now it is \$68,300; moreover, in 2009 the salary range was \$60,000 - \$121,000, the current range is \$55,000 - \$110,000. To meet the new demand, the lawyers have extended their average work day and continue to work diligently to meet the County's legal needs.
- **Consolidation.** The County Executive, together with the Legislature, has consolidated the legal resources of the County under the auspicious of the Department of Law. DOL is sanguine that the merits of consolidation will be substantial. Although in its inaugural months, consolidation has produced a number of benefits. While the County has historically devoted 11 lawyers to service family court on any given day, consolidation has freed a number of lawyers from mundane court appearances so that they can be devoted to a variety of activities. Also, legal work such as opinions, contracts, and the like, which have traditionally been provided for the Department of Social Services (DSS) and the Department for Children Youth and Families (DCYF) by the DOL's civil trial lawyers, are now performed by lawyers formerly with DSS and DCYF allowing more time for the civil trial lawyers to litigate.
- **Government Harmony** —DOL has been able to blend the legal positions of various departments. As the Legislature is aware, on occasion a perceptive position taken by a department is at odds with the equally perceptive position of the other department head, employee or constituent. As advisor and counselor, we have had the pleasant opportunity to smooth these tensions avoiding contemptuous turf wars that frequently fatigues government.

APPROPRIATION HISTORY



1998:	\$792,318
1999:	\$805,290
2000:	\$877,309
2001:	\$993,785
2002:	\$1,043,204
2003:	\$1,087,179
2004:	\$1,056,016
2005:	\$1,088,843
2006:	\$1,132,094
2007:	\$1,212,602
2008:	\$1,255,520
2009:	\$1,269,139
2010:	\$1,140,511
2011:	\$1,070,679
2012:	\$1,227,669
2013:	\$2,711,126

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Law
County of Albany
112 State Street
Suite 1010
Albany, New York 12207
Office: (518) 447-7110
Fax: (518) 447-5564

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2013 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- To reduce the number of attorney hours consumed by Family Court by a more efficient use of personal and by cross training lawyers.
- To reduce and eventually eradicate the need to employ outside counsel.
- To favorably resolve litigation regarding redistricting and Hudson River - Black River.
- To serve in a diligent and timely manner the Legislature and the Departments of Albany County

An abandoned dry cleaner at 566 Washington Ave. was not just a symbol of urban blight; it was an environmental hazard. For over a decade lethal chemicals were left in porous containers submerged in a basement. The Legislature was frustrated and the County Executive found the situation intolerable. The Department of Law embarked on an aggressive effort to solve the problem from a legal prospective. We found that the law required the State Department of Environment Conservation to investigate and clean up the hazard — and after some initial resistance, that is exactly what happened. Today, the dry cleaner store front has been demolished and the testing and cleanup of the toxic chemicals are under way at no cost to the County.

Account	2011 Expended	2012 Adjusted	2013 Proposed	2012-13 Change	2012-13 Percent Change
Appropriations					
Law					
Personal Services	\$702,604	\$1,241,125	\$1,690,860	\$449,735	36.24%
Equipment	\$0	\$2,500	\$1,500	(\$1,000)	-40.00%
Contractual Expenses	\$115,422	\$182,551	\$211,231	\$28,680	15.71%
Fringe Benefits	\$216,736	\$595,641	\$807,535	\$211,894	35.57%
Appropriations Total	\$1,034,762	\$2,021,817	\$2,711,126	\$689,309	34.1%
Revenue	\$0	(\$809,335)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$460,275)	56.87%
Revenue Total	\$0	(\$809,335)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$460,275)	56.9%
Total County Share	\$1,034,762	\$1,212,482	\$1,441,516	\$229,034	118.89%

				2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2013	2013		
A 1420 Law				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted		
Personnel Services Individual												
A	1420	11040	001	250001	County Attorney	1	1	\$130,400	\$110,726	\$110,726	\$110,726	-
A	1420	11140	001	250002	First Asst. County Attorney	1	1	\$11,604	\$83,640	\$88,500	\$88,500	-
A	1420	12000	001	250003	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$83,231	\$85,000	\$85,000	-
A	1420	12000	002	250004	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$66,171	\$66,170	\$67,500	\$67,500	-
A	1420	12000	003	250005	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$57,139	\$57,139	\$59,500	\$59,500	-
A	1420	12000	004	250006	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$69,449	\$69,449	\$58,500	\$58,500	-
A	1420	12000	005	250007	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$55,000	\$55,000	\$58,500	\$58,500	-
A	1420	12000	006	250008	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$75,948	\$76,400	\$76,400	-
A	1420	12000	007	250009	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$60,795	\$62,423	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	12000	008	250010	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$62,423	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	12000	009	250011	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$60,795	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	12000	010	250018	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$60,795	\$60,795	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	12000	011	250021	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	\$31,353	\$31,353	\$47,250	\$47,250	-
A	1420	12000	012	250025	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$62,423	\$57,500	\$57,500	-
A	1420	12000	013	250029	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$37,715	\$31,715	\$31,715	-
A	1420	12000	014	250030	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$75,948	\$76,400	\$76,400	-
A	1420	12000	015	250031	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$62,423	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	12000	016	250032	Assistant County Attorney	1	1	-	\$62,423	\$63,000	\$63,000	-
A	1420	15013	001	250034	Sr Attorneys Trial Asst	1	1	-	\$57,728	\$57,728	\$57,728	-
A	1420	15015	001	250035	Attorneys Trial Assistant	1	1	-	\$48,371	\$48,371	\$48,371	-
A	1420	15021	001	250036	Senior Paralegal	1	1	-	\$45,027	\$45,027	\$45,027	-
A	1420	15021	002	250037	Senior Paralegal	1	1	-	\$42,101	\$42,101	\$42,101	-
A	1420	15023	001	250012	Paralegal	1	1	\$37,354	\$37,354	\$38,104	\$38,104	-
A	1420	15023	002	250023	Paralegal	1	0	\$33,875	\$33,875	-	-	-
A	1420	15023	003	250024	Paralegal	1	1	-	\$42,032	\$42,032	\$42,032	-
A	1420	15023	004	250033	Paralegal	1	1	-	\$42,031	\$42,031	\$42,031	-
A	1420	15025	001	250022	Legal Secretary	1	1	\$32,699	\$32,699	\$33,449	\$33,449	-
A	1420	16043	001	250039	Keyboard Specialist I	1	1	-	\$27,521	\$27,521	\$27,521	-
A	1420	16207	001	250038	Clerk I PT	1	1	-	\$14,057	\$14,057	\$14,057	-
A	1420	16401	004	250015	Confidential Secretary	1	1	\$42,770	\$42,770	\$44,970	\$44,970	-
<i>Personnel Services Individual Subtotal</i>						30	29	\$689,404	\$1,645,590	\$1,630,882	\$1,630,882	\$0

				2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2013	2013
A 1420 Law				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Personnel Non-Individual										
A	1420	19935	Law Intern Program			\$0	\$0	\$24,000	\$24,000	\$0
A	1420	19950	Longevity Raise			\$8,600	\$20,050	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$0
A	1420	19951	Health Insurance Buyout			\$5,000	\$12,667	\$12,667	\$12,667	\$0
A	1420	19970	Temporary Help			\$0	\$8,800	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	1420	19990	Vacation Buy Back			\$0	\$2,311	\$2,311	\$2,311	\$0
<i>Personnel Non-Individual Subtotal</i>						\$13,600	\$43,828	\$59,978	\$59,978	\$0
Equipment										
A	1420	22001	Office Equipment			\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	1420	22050	Computer Equipment			\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
<i>Equipment Subtotal</i>						\$0	\$2,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Contractual Expenses										
A	1420	44020	Office Supplies			\$2,344	\$4,825	\$13,425	\$13,425	\$0
A	1420	44035	Postage			\$1,773	\$2,250	\$5,773	\$5,773	\$0
A	1420	44036	Telephone			\$1,093	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$0
A	1420	44037	Insurance			\$2,105	\$2,512	\$2,671	\$2,671	\$0
A	1420	44039	Conferences/Training/Tuition			\$702	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$1,800	\$0
A	1420	44040	Books Transcripts Subscript.			\$21,600	\$33,946	\$44,146	\$44,146	\$0
A	1420	44042	Printing And Advertising			\$34	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0
A	1420	44043	Legal Fees			\$0	\$16,617	\$16,815	\$16,815	\$0
A	1420	44046	Fees For Services			\$14,208	\$45,754	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$0
A	1420	44054	Transcription Services			\$0	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
A	1420	44065	Photocopier Lease			\$0	\$2,137	\$4,274	\$4,274	\$0
A	1420	44070	Equipment Repair And Rental			\$3,372	\$2,547	\$3,422	\$3,422	\$0
A	1420	44300	Association Dues			\$0	\$1,319	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$0
A	1420	44903	DGS Shared Services Charges			\$68,191	\$66,844	\$79,005	\$79,005	\$0
<i>Contractual Expenses Subtotal</i>						\$115,422	\$182,551	\$211,231	\$211,231	\$0
Fringe Benefits										
A	1420	89010	State Retirement			\$82,095	\$246,055	\$383,404	\$383,404	\$0
A	1420	89030	Social Security			\$50,848	\$94,883	\$129,351	\$129,351	\$0
A	1420	89060	Hospital and Medical Insurance			\$83,793	\$254,703	\$294,780	\$294,780	\$0
<i>Fringe Benefits Subtotal</i>						\$216,736	\$595,641	\$807,535	\$807,535	\$0

			2012	2013	2011	2012	2013	2013	2013
A 1420 Law			Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Total Appropriations					\$1,035,162	\$2,021,817	\$2,711,126	\$2,711,126	\$0
Revenue									
A 1420	01272	Legal Service Charges			\$0	(\$809,335)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$1,269,610)	\$0
Total Revenue					\$0	(\$809,335)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$1,269,610)	\$0
County Share					\$1,035,162	\$1,212,482	\$1,441,516	\$1,441,516	\$0