

LAW - 1420

MISSION STATEMENT

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

WHO WE SERVE

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

ABOUT OUR DEPARTMENT

DOL attorneys by year end will have appeared in Court on the County's behalf over 5,500 times. They will have reviewed and drafted over 700 contracts for various departments, have provided approximately 400 opinions for agencies, departments and elected officials and have handled over 500 property matters.

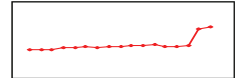
2013 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CHALLENGES

- **Consolidation.** In 2012, the legal resources within the County were consolidated under the Department of Law. Since that time, we have reduced our reliance upon outside counsel and streamlined the services being provided to our clients. Historically, outside counsel for civil cases cost the County in excess of \$325,000 annually (insured claims). To date this year, DOL has paid \$52,000 for outside counsel for insured claims. Except in rare instances, at this time, all new litigation is being handled by staff attorneys under the supervision of the County Attorney. This was accomplished as a result of consolidation. We were able to free some attorneys from mundane court appearances, and utilize their services in other areas. In addition, opinions and litigation issues previously provided for DSS and DCYF by DOL civil trial attorneys are now performed by lawyers formerly with DSS and DCYF. We were able to tap into the expertise of these trained attorneys, allowing more time for the civil trial attorneys to litigate.
- **Government Harmony.** DOL has been able to blend the polar positions of various departments. As the Legislature is aware, on occasion, a position by one department is at odds with the position of another department head, employee or constituent. As advisory and counselor, we have worked hard to smooth these tensions, avoiding contemptuous turf wars, which frequently fatigue government.

2014 GOALS AND PERFORMANCE TARGETS

- To continue to train and cross train lawyers within the Department of Law to maximize our abilities and reduce duplicative work.
- To continue to handle litigation in-house and to continue to eradicate the need to employ outside counsel.
- To favorably resolve the Redistricting litigation.
- To serve more completely the Legislature and the Departments of Albany County.

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
2014:	\$2,888,930

CONTACT INFORMATION

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DOL's proposed budget continues the goals of consolidation. Reliance upon outside counsel has been significantly reduced and those functions have been absorbed by DOL. The proposed DOL budget reallocates monies from the insurance fund to DOL line items to pay necessary expenses incidental to the handling of litigation claims, including but not limited to, supplies, stenographers, expert witnesses, and other necessary litigation costs. In addition, we have included a request for a petty cash account to enable DOL to pay Court filing fees and similar costs associated with litigation. These costs were previously borne by outside counsel, billed back to the County and paid through the insurance Risk Retention Fund. Correspondingly, we have reduced the insurance Risk Retention Fund to a level that reflects a reduced reliance upon outside counsel while allowing us to adequately pay claims as required by our contracts of insurance.

				2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014
A 1420 Law				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Personnel Services Individual										
A 1420 11040 001	250001	County Attorney		1	1	\$94,969	\$115,199	\$117,504	\$117,504	-
A 1420 11140 001	250002	First Asst. County Attorney		1	1	\$73,989	\$87,019	\$88,760	\$88,760	-
A 1420 12000 001	250003	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$32,012	\$86,594	\$88,326	\$88,326	-
A 1420 12000 002	250004	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$66,171	\$68,843	\$70,221	\$70,221	-
A 1420 12000 003	250005	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$53,309	\$59,447	\$60,637	\$60,637	-
A 1420 12000 004	250006	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$51,732	\$60,863	\$62,081	\$62,081	-
A 1420 12000 005	250007	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$43,237	\$60,863	\$62,081	\$62,081	-
A 1420 12000 006	250008	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$24,829	\$79,487	\$81,077	\$81,077	-
A 1420 12000 007	250009	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$20,407	\$65,545	\$66,857	\$66,857	-
A 1420 12000 008	250010	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$22,808	\$64,945	\$66,244	\$66,244	-
A 1420 12000 009	250011	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$60,795	\$63,251	\$64,517	\$64,517	-
A 1420 12000 010	250018	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$60,795	\$63,251	\$64,517	\$64,517	-
A 1420 12000 011	250021	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$31,353	\$49,159	\$50,143	\$50,143	-
A 1420 12000 012	250025	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$21,547	\$59,823	\$61,020	\$61,020	-
A 1420 12000 013	250029	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$12,076	\$31,715	\$33,657	\$33,657	-
A 1420 12000 014	250030	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$27,750	\$79,487	\$81,077	\$81,077	-
A 1420 12000 015	250031	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$20,408	\$65,545	\$66,857	\$66,857	-
A 1420 12000 016	250032	Assistant County Attorney		1	1	\$22,643	\$64,945	\$66,244	\$66,244	-
A 1420 15013 001	250034	Sr Attorneys Trial Asst		1	1	\$18,873	\$60,060	\$61,262	\$61,262	-
A 1420 15015 001	250035	Attorneys Trial Assistant		1	1	\$15,814	\$50,325	\$51,332	\$51,332	-
A 1420 15021 001	250036	Senior Paralegal		1	1	\$14,720	\$46,846	\$47,784	\$47,784	-
A 1420 15021 002	250037	Senior Paralegal		1	1	\$17,002	\$43,802	\$44,678	\$44,678	-
A 1420 15023 001	250012	Paralegal		1	1	\$37,354	\$38,863	\$44,605	\$44,605	-
A 1420 15023 002	250023	Paralegal		1	1	\$34,526	\$33,875	\$33,875	\$33,875	-
A 1420 15023 003	250024	Paralegal		1	1	\$41,601	\$43,730	\$44,605	\$44,605	-
A 1420 15023 004	250033	Paralegal		1	1	\$14,042	\$43,729	\$44,604	\$44,604	-
A 1420 15025 001	250022	Legal Secretary		1	1	\$32,699	\$34,020	\$34,701	\$34,701	-
A 1420 16043 001	250039	Keyboard Specialist I		1	1	\$7,410	\$28,633	\$27,000	\$27,000	-
A 1420 16207 001	250038	Clerk I PT		1	1	\$4,596	\$14,625	\$14,918	\$14,918	-
A 1420 16401 004	250015	Confidential Secretary		1	1	\$42,770	\$44,498	\$45,388	\$45,388	-
<i>Personnel Services Individual Subtotal</i>				30	30	\$1,022,237	\$1,708,987	\$1,746,572	\$1,746,572	\$0

				2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014
A 1420 Law				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Personnel Non-Individual										
A	1420	19935	Law Intern Program			\$0	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$0
A	1420	19950	Longevity Raise			\$9,200	\$21,000	\$21,350	\$21,350	\$0
A	1420	19951	Health Insurance Buyout			\$11,000	\$12,667	\$18,000	\$18,000	\$0
A	1420	19970	Temporary Help			\$8,481	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	1420	19990	Vacation Buy Back			\$2,040	\$2,311	\$2,311	\$2,311	\$0
<i>Personnel Non-Individual Subtotal</i>						\$30,721	\$35,978	\$56,661	\$56,661	\$0
Equipment										
A	1420	22001	Office Equipment			\$915	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	1420	22050	Computer Equipment			\$1,343	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
<i>Equipment Subtotal</i>						\$2,258	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0
Contractual Expenses										
A	1420	44020	Office Supplies			\$4,385	\$11,125	\$13,425	\$13,425	\$0
A	1420	44035	Postage			\$2,108	\$5,773	\$5,773	\$5,773	\$0
A	1420	44036	Telephone			\$1,152	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$1,900	\$0
A	1420	44037	Insurance			\$2,243	\$2,671	\$3,541	\$3,541	\$0
A	1420	44039	Conferences/Training/Tuition			\$415	\$4,100	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$0
A	1420	44040	Books Transcripts Subscript.			\$31,595	\$44,146	\$44,146	\$44,146	\$0
A	1420	44042	Printing And Advertising			\$299	\$100	\$0	\$0	\$0
A	1420	44043	Legal Fees			\$2,659	\$27,215	\$17,815	\$17,815	\$0
A	1420	44046	Fees For Services			\$27,780	\$42,773	\$40,000	\$40,000	\$0
A	1420	44054	Transcription Services			\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$0
A	1420	44065	Photocopier Lease			\$2,086	\$4,274	\$4,274	\$4,274	\$0
A	1420	44070	Equipment Repair And Rental			\$478	\$3,422	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$0
A	1420	44300	Association Dues			\$1,319	\$2,900	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0
A	1420	44903	DGS Shared Services Charges			\$66,844	\$79,005	\$80,936	\$80,936	\$0
<i>Contractual Expenses Subtotal</i>						\$143,362	\$239,404	\$227,810	\$227,810	\$0
Fringe Benefits										
A	1420	89010	State Retirement			\$172,413	\$380,831	\$372,587	\$372,587	\$0
A	1420	89030	Social Security			\$77,497	\$130,889	\$137,947	\$137,947	\$0
A	1420	89060	Hospital and Medical Insurance			\$102,816	\$293,949	\$345,853	\$345,853	\$0
<i>Fringe Benefits Subtotal</i>						\$352,726	\$805,669	\$856,387	\$856,387	\$0

A 1420 Law				2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2014	2014
				Count	Count	Expended	Adjusted	Requested	Proposed	Adopted
Total Appropriations						\$1,506,192	\$2,762,125	\$2,888,930	\$2,888,930	\$0
Revenue										
A 1420	01272	Legal Service Charges				(\$804,183)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$992,050)	(\$992,050)	\$0
Total Revenue						(\$804,183)	(\$1,269,610)	(\$992,050)	(\$992,050)	\$0
County Share						\$702,009	\$1,492,515	\$1,896,880	\$1,896,880	\$0