

Sauk County, Wisconsin
Corporation Counsel Annual Report

2012 Mission: Provide professional legal services to Sauk County government, including the Board of Supervisors, committees, departments, and connected boards and commissions, as well as providing legal representation of the public interest in statutorily and contractually defined areas.

Vision: Provide legal advice and guidance to County officials to assist them in making policy decisions, and provide the legal support to the organization to facilitate and carry out those decisions.

Departmental Program Summary:

The work of the Corporation Counsel's Office is broken down into four separate program areas described below:

General Government Legal Services: Involves providing civil legal advice and representation across the spectrum of the County to include reviewing and drafting contracts, leases, ordinances, resolutions, court pleadings and other legal documents. The office represents the County in litigation including the enforcement of the Code of Ordinances and other matters, and serves as ethics advisor to employees and elected officials, and reviews and defends claims filed against the County.

Department of Human Services: Legal support to the Department includes representing the public interest in involuntarily mental commitments and the DHS as petitioner in guardianship and protective placement actions, children in need of protection and services cases (CHIPS) and termination of parental rights (TPR) cases.

Labor-management Relations: The office represents the County in all labor/management relations matters to include serving as alternate spokesperson and legal advisor during negotiation sessions, representing the County in arbitrations and other proceedings before the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission, equal employment matters, and litigation resulting from labor relations issues.

Child Support Enforcement: One Assistant Corporation Counsel is assigned full time to providing legal services for the Child Support Agency on a contract basis. This attorney handles enforcement of child support obligations through judicial action, establishment of paternity, and related collection matters.

2012 Goals Review:

2012 GOALS REVIEW

OBJECTIVE	WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2012?
	Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)
100% of juvenile matter referrals with statutory timelines completed within those requirements; 90% of all other DHS referrals completed within two weeks or less.	Yes
90% of legal opinions completed within two weeks or status update given.	Yes
100% of all referred emergency detentions to be completed as is most appropriate within statutory requirements.	Yes

The Year in Review:

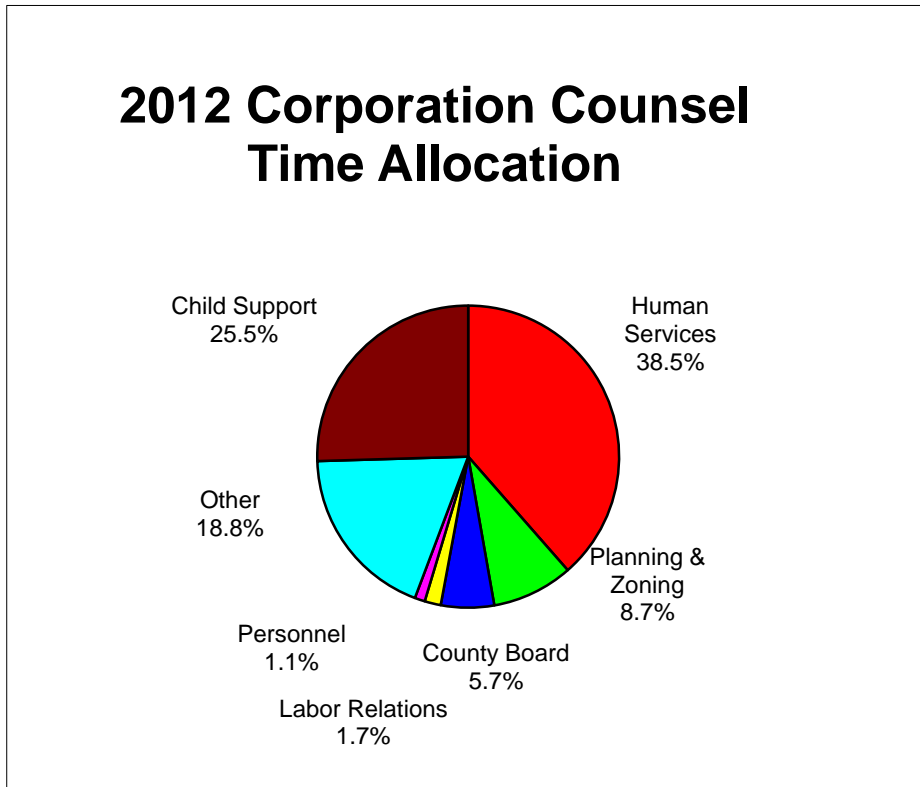
This year continued the County's efforts to have the concerns of local government jurisdictions impacted by the Ho-Chunk Nation's trust land acquisition addressed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The refusal of the Bureau of Indian Affairs to respond to the County's Freedom of Information Act request led the County to file suit in Federal District Court. This action is likely to lead to the release of the documents sought. The office was also able to achieve a favorable decision in interest arbitration leading to the implementation of the County's final offer for the Sheriff's Department for the years 2012-2013. The office assisted the County in accomplishing several significant environmental projects. The amelioration of the devastation caused by Clark Creek flooding was addressed through various contracts this office reviewed as well as the transactions completed by this office in acquiring three high-risk properties. Access to the 80 acres of recreational land in the Town of Dellona was accomplished through the acquisition of an additional 60 acres of unrestricted land that will be a continuing and valuable asset for the County. The office completed actions in rem on several tax delinquent properties making those properties more marketable, and the office assisted the Treasurer in selling a property to the Village of Prairie du Sac that has tremendous potential for future, positive development in the Village's downtown area.

Changes/Accomplishments:

The office continued to set the statewide standard in the handling of juvenile matters with one of our Assistant Corporation Counsels being a presenter to attorneys at continuing legal education programs and law students at the UW Law School. She also provided testimony before a legislative committee. The complexity of cases continues to grow as people become more mobile, and cases tend to overlap between CHIPS, TPRs, and mental commitments. Drug abuse continues to be a challenging problem leading to devastation in families. The office worked with Public Health to enforce the County's ordinance bringing unlicensed tattoo providers into compliance by prosecuting violations and educating law enforcement on unlicensed and unsafe

tattoo practices. The office addressed major changes to the guardianship and mental health laws and worked proactively with the community to educate interested parties in the changes. Elder abuse referrals increased, and the office worked closely with the Human Services Department to protect victims civilly while working with prosecutors to assist in prosecution. The office continued to zealously represent the county in a number of areas including bankruptcy and to aggressively defend the County in legal actions. The office continued to serve as Sauk County's comprehensive, in-house legal department while protecting public health, safety and welfare through the myriad of civil law matters the office is statutorily responsible for.

Statistical Summary:



ACTIONS	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
Legal Opinions Rendered	122	136	219	228	273	260	300
Guardianship/Prot. Plcmnt. Hrgs.	39	35	34	43	77	52	59
Mental Commitment Detentions	221	242	216	224	182	145	134
Mental Commitment Hearings	154	186	173	154	166	138	112
Prot. Plcmnt. Reviews	90	98	91	85	87	90	84
TPR/CHIPSS Cases Filed	65	98	92	93	96	112	130
TPR/CHIPs Hearings	132	151	105	106	82	82	89

OUTPUT MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL
Guardianship/Protective Placement Hearings & WATTs Reviews	114	142	143
Mental Commitment Hearings	166	138	112

OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES

DESCRIPTION	2010 ACTUAL	2011 ACTUAL	2012 ACTUAL
Legal Opinions Rendered (90% of actions completed or status report given within two weeks)	273 - 98% of goals met	260 – 99% of goals met	300 - 99% of goals met
TPR/CHIPS Hearings & Filings (100% of actions followed through to completion)	178 - 100% of goals met	194 – 100% of goals met	219 - 100% of goals met
Mental Commitments (100% of actions followed through to completion)	182 - 100% of goals met	145 – 100% of goals met	134- 100% of goals met
Violations - P&Z, PH, Parks (90% of cases to gain compliance with Ordinance Code w/i 2 weeks or status/follow-through until compliance reached)	33 actions – 100% of goals met	19 actions – 100% of goals met	25 actions – 100% of goals met

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