

Sauk County, Wisconsin  
**Corporation Counsel Annual Report**

**2014 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 office is broken down into four separate program areas described below:

*General Government Legal Services:* The duties of the corporation counsel involve civil legal matters and include giving legal opinions to the board, its committees, and county departments, interpreting the powers and duties of the county board and officers, drafting and reviewing contracts, leases and other legal documents, representing the county in all manner of civil legal proceedings in state and federal court, defending or coordinating the defense of claims and suits, reviewing and drafting resolutions and ordinances, maintaining the county code of ordinances and prosecuting violations of the code, and serving as ethics advisor to county employees and elected officials. This program area also includes providing legal counsel to the University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County Campus Commission.

*Department of Human Services (DHS):* Legal support to the DHS 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 negotiations, arbitrations and other proceedings before the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission, equal employment matters, and litigation resulting from labor relations issues.

*Child Support Enforcement:* The office provides legal services to the Child Support Agency including enforcement of child support obligations through judicial action, establishment of paternity, and related collection matters.

**2014 Goals Review:**

**2014 GOALS REVIEW**

<b>OBJECTIVE</b>	<b>WAS THIS OBJECTIVE REACHED IN 2014?</b>
	<b>Yes or No (If no, please provide comment)</b>
Effectively support and execute the county's efforts to find alternatives to incarceration, provide mental health services, and address issues related to drug use and support efforts to provide rehabilitation.	Yes
Support economic development activity through proactive legal support to the County.	Yes
Respond to the revenue and regulatory threats and challenges posed by the trust land applications of the Ho-Chunk Nation.	No. There was no activity that required response
Support the County's efforts to protect the health and safety of Sauk County.	Yes
Provide legal support to the University of Wisconsin Baraboo-Sauk County Campus Commission as legal counsel in support of ongoing campus improvement projects.	Yes
Maintain a proactive approach to the implementation of cost effective technology to improve our operations and remain in the lead with other public sector law offices.	Yes

**Changes / Accomplishments:** Several ordinances were revised or repealed and recreated in 2014, most notably the Sauk County Zoning Ordinance and the adoption of a comprehensive Information Practices Ordinance that addressed legal compliance in the context of changing technologies.

The University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County Campus Commission embarked on two ambitious projects including a new science facility and a unique, public-private venture to construct a residence hall. This office provided all the legal support to these two major projects.

The office provided the legal support to establish the Great Sauk Trail Commission which will serve as the focal point for development of the trail. The Great Sauk Trail project has been long sought, will improve the human environment, and provide significant economic development.

The office provided all the legal support to the Community Development Block Grant program facilitating many economic development projects in the county through the Revolving Loan Fund.

The office continues to serve the County as its 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:**

**OUTPUT MEASURES**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2012 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2013 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>
Guardianship/Protective Placement Hearings & WATTs Reviews	143	150	180
Mental Commitment Hearings	112	114	108

**OUTCOME AND EFFICIENCY MEASURES**

<b>DESCRIPTION</b>	<b>2012 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2013 ACTUAL</b>	<b>2014 ACTUAL</b>
Legal Opinions Rendered (90% of actions completed or status report given within two weeks)	300 – 99% of goals met	389 - 99% of goals met	418 – 98% of goals met
TPR/CHIPS Hearings & Filings (100% of actions followed through to completion)	219 – 100% of goals met	186 - 100% of goals met	217 – 100% of goals met
Mental Commitments (100% of actions followed through to completion)	134 – 100% of goals met	114- 100% of goals met	108 – 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)	25 actions – 100% of goals met	22 actions – 100% of goals met	52 – 100% of goals met

<b>ACTIONS</b>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Legal Opinions Rendered	136	219	228	273	260	300	389	418
Guardianship/Prot. Plcmnt. Hrgs.	35	34	43	77	52	59	63	77
Mental Commitment Detentions	242	216	224	182	145	134	99	109
Mental Commitment Hearings/Stips	186	173	154	166	138	112	114	108
Prot. Plcmnt. Reviews	98	91	85	87	90	84	87	85
TPR/CHIPSs Cases Filed	98	92	93	96	112	130	116	124
TPR/CHIPs Hearings	151	105	106	82	82	89	70	86