

County Counsel

- **Total Budget**
 - Operating: \$3,094,613
 - Capital: \$0
- **General Fund Contribution**
 - \$1,908,378 (38% of total)
 - \$296,400 of one-time Litigation Designation funding (avg. annual use of Litigation Designation is approx. \$292,000)
- **Budget FTE**
 - 37.8 (reduction of 17.3% from 45.7 FTE in FY 05-06)

Accomplishments

- Represented the County in approximately 125 litigated cases with reserves of nearly \$10 million; concluded 19 cases with savings of \$776,900 in potential liability.
- Provided legal service for multi-faceted employment issues and coordinated handling of workers' compensation (WC) claims with related legal actions
- Successfully resolved 16 WC cases through dismissal, trial and/or settlement for equal to or less than the amount reserved by Risk Management.

Accomplishments

- Supported negotiations to minimize impacts on County from University of California, Santa Barbara's Long Range Development Plan.
- Litigated and resolved seven appeals by Greka Oil & Gas, Inc. of administrative fines by County.
- Prevailed in litigation to enforce County's restrictive covenant for "passive recreation and the preservation of wildlife habitat" at Elings Park South.
- Advised the Board of Supervisors and Planning & Development Department concerning nine appeals involving NextG's Distributed Antenna System.

Service Level Impacts

- County Counsel's service level will be unchanged.
- FTE reductions since FY 08-09 have fallen disproportionately on General Fund departments and General Fund projects.
- Reduced staffing continues to limit the quantity and timeliness of County Counsel's legal work.

Services Provided in FY 2011-12

- County Counsel's goal is continued delivery of quality legal services.
- Basic services include attendance and advice at public meetings, communicating and collaborating with clients to solve legal problems and providing sound legal advice.
- Represents the County in litigated matters including tort defense, contracts, land use and advisory.