

COUNTY COUNSEL DEPARTMENTAL OVERVIEW

The mission of the County Counsel is to maintain the legal integrity of the County. The department functions as the County's civil lawyers. The department advises and advocates to protect and promote clients' policies and actions.

The County Counsel strives to continually deliver quality professional legal services; reliable, timely and useful advice; and exemplary and effective advocacy. Basic services include: resolving major land use, employment and civil rights litigation; attendance and advice at public meetings; communicating and collaborating with clients to solve legal problems; providing legal opinions; reviewing and drafting legal documents; facilitating dispute resolution; providing training to staff, county departments, and public officials; and effectively advocating the positions of clients before courts and administrative agencies.

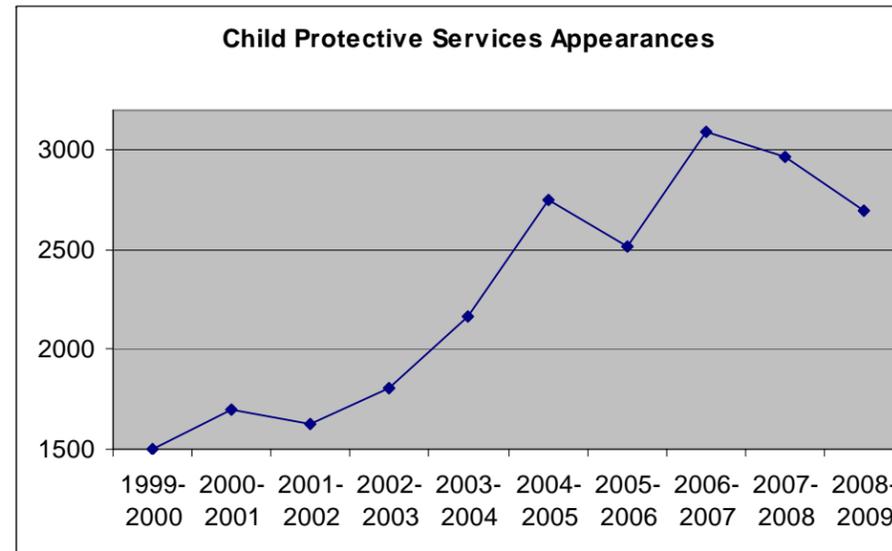
The department's strategy is to continue to improve services through better timing (the "early eye" in contracts, land use, and risk management), collaboration (internal and external), and communication (responsiveness and quality).

The department has one cost center, County Counsel, and a total of 42.2 FTE staff, of which 28 are attorneys. The department is located in Santa Barbara.

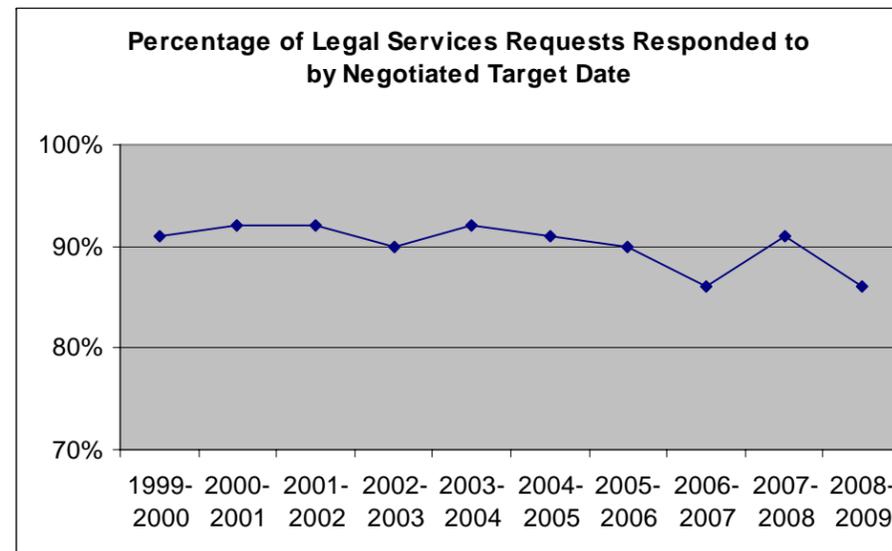
County Counsel

Three subdivisions are included in the cost center: Administration, which oversees the general administration of the department; Advisory, which advises the Board of Supervisors, County departments, agencies and planning commission; and Litigation, which processes all litigation on behalf of the County.

COUNTY COUNSEL KEY TREND ANALYSIS



The trend of Child Protective Services Appearances shows a gradual increase until FY 2006-2007, with a slight decrease thereafter. Several factors contribute towards the increasing number of court appearances. There have been more trials set by parent's attorneys. In addition, there are more continuances because of case backlog due to the number of trials. The department is taking on more complex cases and more cases involving private attorneys, who tend to set more trials that often last longer. There have also been a number of detentions, some of them involving families with five or six children.



The number of legal services requests is contingent on incoming written requests to County Counsel from other county departments. Finishing the request by the negotiated target date depends on the difficulty of the request, staffing availability of County Counsel, and whether there are other items the staff is working on at the same time.

Performance Measure Legend

Department-wide Effectiveness Performance Measure

Change to Performance Measure

Performance Measure to Delete

New Performance Measure

Budgets shown in Millions (\$M) or Thousands (\$K)

Program Budgets are \$ Total Uses / \$Total General Fund Contribution

Division: # & Title From CCID
Cost Center Report
Budget/GFC from CCID
(Financial Data by Cost Ctr)

Sub-Divn: # & Name from Cost
Center Report
Obj: from CCID Inventory

Program: Title From CCID
Number From CCID
Budget/GFC from CCID
(Financial Data by Prog)
FTE: CCID

