

# COUNTY COUNSEL

COUNTY COUNSEL..... 1210

*JEANINE B. NADEL, County Counsel*

## COUNTY COUNSEL'S BUDGET UNIT

County Counsel..... 1210

### MISSION

**Programs:** County Counsel is charged by State law with the responsibility to defend, or prosecute, all civil actions and proceedings that concern the County or any of its officers. County Counsel is required to provide legal advice and representation to the following: all County officers and departments, boards and commissions, special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors, and the Mendocino County Grand Jury. The County Counsel acts as legal advisor on a fee for services basis to special districts, the Community Development Commission, Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCO), Mendocino Transit Authority, Mendocino Council of Governments, Resource Conservation District, Ukiah Valley Sanitation District and other Joint Powers Agencies.

**Public Trust:** It is the responsibility of County Counsel to act as representation to the Board in all legal matters, and therefore serve as the voice of the public for matters in which the Board brings forth action against another government body, public agency or private individual on behalf of public interest.

**Practices:** Advise the Board of Supervisors, Grand Jury, and County Departments. For a fee, advise Special Districts, Boards and Commissions.

**People:** Represent the County competently, thoughtfully and justly in all legal matters, and encourage staff to be diligent in their role as legal counsel.

### MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2007-08 FISCAL YEAR

#### **Programs:**

- Conservatorships and Public Administrator Cases: represented the Public Guardian/Public Administrator in conservatorship and estate cases for the Social Services Branch of the Health & Human Services Agency.
- Juvenile Dependency Cases: the two juvenile attorneys handled all phases of these cases from inception through appeal. These cases involved abused, neglected or abandoned children. The cases are resolved when the children are returned to their families, placed in long term foster care, placed in a guardianship, or adopted into a new family.
- Family Dependency Drug Court: assisted the Health and Human Services Agency in the development of the family dependency drug court, including application for the federal drug court grant. Continued to participate in further development and implementation of this program.
- Elder Abuse Program: worked with the Health and Human Services Agency and the District Attorney's Office to develop a program to respond to incidents of financial elder abuse. Arrangements for a training session with the various County departments and countywide law enforcement agencies were successfully completed, and staff continued to work with these agencies on program development and implementation.
- Law Enforcement: was actively involved in assisting the Sheriff's Office, District Attorney's Office and the Mendocino County Board of Supervisors with all marijuana issues this past year, including, but not limited to, development of the Marijuana Cultivation and Dispensary Ordinances.
- Legal Opinions: issued over 1,710 legal opinions to date.
- Litigation: through aggressive and diligent work, maintained a successful litigation program.
- Ukiah Valley Sanitation District: increased services to the Sanitation District.

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- Land Use Law Enforcement Cases and Advisory Support: provided advisory and litigation support in all building, planning, zoning, environmental health, and air quality projects and cases. Enhanced code enforcement support to Planning and Building Services and the Redevelopment Agency. Participated in the development of a Code Enforcement Nuisance Abatement Program with Planning and Building Services, which will bring revenue into the County.
- Risk Management Training: provided Ethics, Brown Act and Public Records Training to County officials, Special Districts, Boards and Commissions. In addition, provided Sexual Harassment Training for County Department Heads, Managers and Supervisors, thus minimizing risks and complying with State mandates.
- Coyote Valley Casino Project: assisted County officials and the Redwood Valley Fire District in negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding between the tribe and the governmental agencies to mitigate off-reservation impacts resulting from the casino expansion.
- Tobacco Ordinance Appeal and Amendments: currently working with the Health and Human Services Agency in its revisions and potential amendments to the County's Tobacco Ordinance for tobacco enforcement cases.
- Water Projects: provided increased services to the Water Agency regarding investigation and development of water resources.
- Wave Energy Project: was involved in newly developed Wave Energy issues and litigation.
- Planning Team: assisted the Planning Team with numerous planning projects, including the Ukiah Valley Area Plan and General Plan processes.
- Treasurer/Tax Collector: worked extensively with the Treasurer/Tax Collector's Office to amend the Business License Ordinance.
- Sierra World Music Festival: renegotiated the Sierra World Music Festival Agreement on behalf of the Mendocino County Fair and Apple Show and the County of Mendocino. The festival will generate revenue to the County.

**Public Trust:** Provided legal advice to County Board of Supervisors, department heads, staff, boards and commissions to enable them to meet the needs of the public.

**Practices:** Provided legal advice, advocacy and support to County officials and staffed Committee meetings, and provided legal services for the County in litigation initiated by and against the County.

**People:** Provided legal support to all County Departments and Agencies and to the Board of Supervisors.

## GOALS/OBJECTIVES FOR 2008-09 FISCAL YEAR

**Programs:** Continue to assist the County with ongoing projects and legal obligations. Provide a sound program of preventative and proactive legal support through accurate and timely legal advice to the Board of Supervisors, County officers, departments, boards and commissions, as well as special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors.

**Public Trust:** Enforce mandated state, federal and local laws in the areas of planning, zoning, building, solid waste, water quality, environmental health and air quality.

**Practices:** Provide the best possible legal services for the County in litigation initiated by and against the County. Deliver legal advocacy and collaborative support to all County offices, departments, boards and commissions, and special districts governed by the Board of Supervisors.

**People:** Staff will continue to provide legal services to maintain the level of services currently provided to the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, Boards, Commissions and Special Districts. County Counsel hopes to fill a vacant attorney position in the near future to assist Planning and Building Services

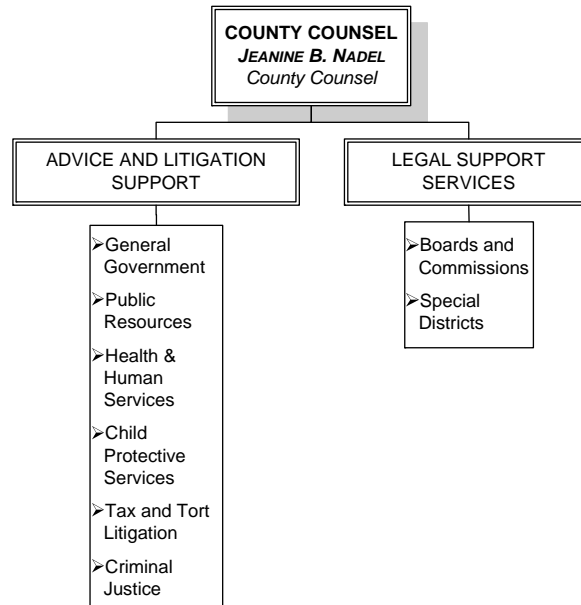
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with code enforcement activities. Continue to assist the County in reducing dependency upon outside counsel by retaining experienced staff counsel, secretarial and para-professional support through employee development and training.

## PROGRAM CHART



## BUDGET UNIT 1210 SUMMARY

Fund: 1100

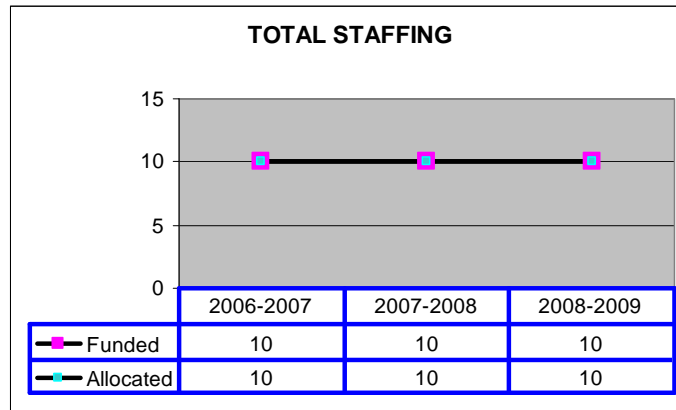
	Actual 2005-06	Actual 2006-07	Adopted 2007-08	Actual 2007-08	Recommend 2008-09	Adopted 2008-09
Salaries & Employee Benefits	923,522	981,793	1,084,020	1,084,447	1,172,561	1,172,561
Services & Supplies	109,188	112,346	167,624	138,828	167,210	167,210
Fixed Assets	0	0	0	718	0	0
Expenditure Transfer and Reimbursement	-318,403	-350,945	-425,000	-367,990	-440,900	-440,900
<b>Net Appropriations</b>	<b>714,307</b>	<b>743,194</b>	<b>826,644</b>	<b>856,003</b>	<b>898,871</b>	<b>898,871</b>
Revenues	243,442	256,918	328,031	266,497	355,250	355,250
<b>Total Net County Cost</b>	<b>470,865</b>	<b>486,276</b>	<b>498,613</b>	<b>589,505</b>	<b>543,621</b>	<b>543,621</b>

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## STAFFING CHART



### **FINAL BUDGET ~ MAJOR BUDGET CHANGES**

(2008-09 Recommended Compared to 2008-09 Adopted)

During the Final Budget Deliberations the Board of Supervisors approved the Recommended Budget from the Executive Office for County Counsel.

#### ***Salaries & Employee Benefits***

- ✧ Acct. 1011 Provides funding for 10 full time positions. Increase of \$76,000 from prior year.

#### ***Expenditure Transfer and Reimbursement***

- ✧ Acct. 5380 Provides for direct billing for legal services to Social Services for 2-Attorneys for juvenile cases and 1-Legal Secretary (Confidential). Increase of \$15,000 from prior year.

#### ***Revenues***

- ✧ Acct. 6161 Provides for billing for special districts, retirement fund, and others. Provides for billing to Redevelopment Agency for code enforcement in the project areas.
- ✧ Acct. 6278 Provides for operating transfers from General Liability Insurance Fund. Increase of \$27,000 from prior year.