

Department Name	Law
Account(s)	1420

Department Function
The County Attorney is the chief legal advisor for the County, and every agency and officer thereof, regarding all civil matters and proceedings. The Department prosecutes and defends the County in all civil actions and proceedings brought by or against the County, County officers and employees. The Department of Law is divided into three Bureaus: • <u>Civil Litigation Bureau</u>: Defends all civil and administrative actions brought against the County. • <u>Human Services Bureau</u>: Prosecutes abuse/neglect, juvenile delinquency, adult protection, mental hygiene and other proceedings in Family and Supreme Court. • <u>Municipal Bureau</u>: Advises the County officers and Departments, renders legal opinions, reviews Freedom of Information Law (FOIL) requests, drafts contracts, and handles real property matters.

Current Year Highlights
• Collaborated with the Department of Management & Budget and the Division of Information Services to introduce a new contract management system for assessing and tracking all County contracts. • Municipal Bureau staff resumed foreclosures/in rem proceedings as the COVID-19 moratoriums ended. • Family Court, Department of Children, Youth and Families (DCYF) and staff handling Juvenile Delinquent (JD) matters continue to effectively prevail on a high volume case calendar. • Civil Litigation Bureau staff had a successful year obtaining dismissals and favorable resolutions of cases, resulting in a significant reduction to the size of the unit docket.

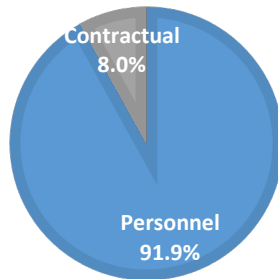
Next Year Projects
• Review/revise the local law requiring prior written notice for sidewalk and walkway claims against the County, including revising the procedure in which prior written complaints are received and organized. • Partner with the Department of General Services (DGS) to implement detailed work order forms for operational tasks like ground maintenance to ensure the County keeps accurate and detailed records of maintenance. • Develop a shared file system with the Division of Information Services for all County leases that are currently handled by the Real Property staff in the Municipal Bureau. • Dedicate resources to continued education and training for our attorneys and support staff.

Link to Website	www.albanycounty.com/Law
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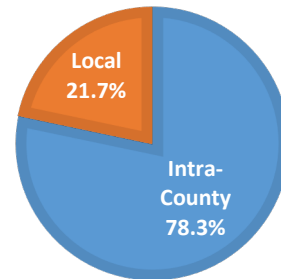
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Financial Charts

FORECASTED COSTS, BY TYPE



FORECASTED REVENUES, BY TYPE



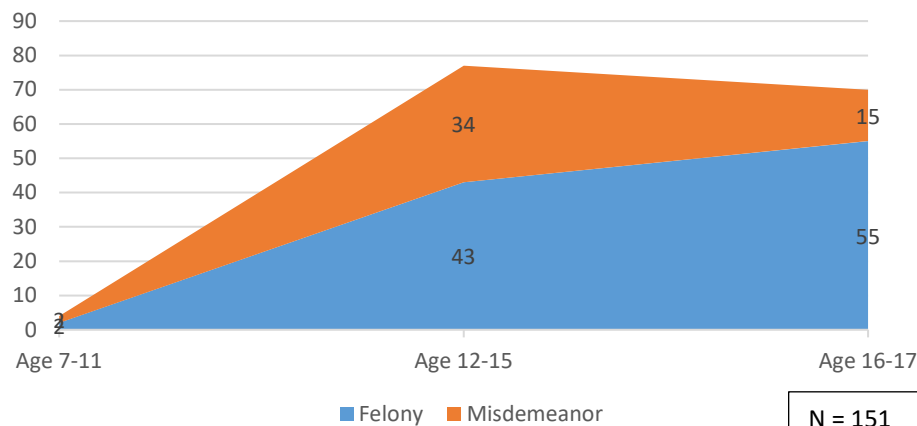
The Law Department's primary function is to represent the County on all legal matters and review and draft contracts. Accordingly, the vast majority of the Department's annual costs are payroll driven.

The Department receives some revenue from Legal Fees assessed on individuals who are paying delinquent taxes, but most of the revenue off-setting expenses is from Shared Services Chargebacks that Law obtains from other County departments they represent in legal matters, including the Department of Social Services and the Department of Children, Youth, & Families.

The 2023 Budget has a forecasted County Share of \$2.9 million for the Law Department.

Programmatic Highlights

Juvenile Delinquency (JD) Petitions Filed in Albany County, 2021



Under NYS' Raise the Age legislation, the Human Services Bureau in the Department of Law was charged with filing delinquency petitions involving youth who are 7 through 17 in Albany County. The Human Services Bureau's cases involve 16- and 17-year-olds charged with felonies (adolescent offenders), and 13-, 14-, and 15-year olds charged with certain serious felonies (juvenile offenders) that were removed from Youth Part of Criminal Court to Family Court. In 2021, the Bureau filed 151 initial petition following an arrest, when they determined there was legally sufficient evidence to commence a delinquency action in Family Court. As of the end of August 2022, the Department had filed 111 JD petitions – on track for over a 10% increase from the prior year.

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