

2024 Corporation Counsel Annual Report

The Office of Corporation Counsel provides civil legal services including legal advice, assistance, formal opinions and court representation to the County Board, County departments, elected officials and County commissions, boards and committees. The duties of the Corporation Counsel's Office are established by Wis. Stat. § 59.42, and Chapter 2.07 of the Eau Claire County Code of General Ordinances.

The Child Support Agency (CSA) is responsible for establishing paternity and establishing and enforcing child support orders and health insurance orders provided for by Title IV of the federal social security act. Provision of these services by Wisconsin counties is mandated by Wis. Stat. § 59.53(5).

Corporation Counsel 2024 Accomplishments

- In REM-Filed 22 of 55 referred.
 - 9 properties have been redeemed.
 - 11 properties foreclosed on.
 - 2 properties dismissed.
- Created & obtained signed MOU's (Memorandum of Understanding) with community agencies that are provided community funding from Eau Claire County Budget.
- Prepared 15 Real Estate Transfer Returns and Buildings, Fixtures and/or Improvements Document(BFI document) for Airport Personal Property changed to Real Property under new law.
- Presented at Adult Protective Service Conference in October regarding residency issues.
- Presented at Court Commissioner Conference in October on Child Support UIFSA (Uniform Interstate Family Support Act).
- CIT training-Crisis Intervention Team- Provided training to law enforcement on Ch. 51 (mental commitment) process and updates.
- Presented at Memorial High School for Junior Achievement on potential careers in government and law.
- Presented at Youth Leadership Eau Claire on potential careers in government and law.
- Eau Claire County Fair Committee – Assisted in development of new structure and creation of Bylaws.
- Provided mandatory reporter training to Health Dept.
- Assisted DHS in reaching permanency for 20 children through TPR and Guardianship cases.
- Cross training Asst. Corp. Counsel Attorneys.
- Cross training Legal Analysts.

Staff actively participated in the following statewide organizations.

- Wisconsin Association of County Corporation Counsel
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement Association Board and Child Support Review Committee
- Wisconsin Child Support Enforcement KIDS Modernization Workgroup

Staff actively participated in the following local organizations, committees and teams.

- Drug Endangered Children Committee
- Child Death Review Team
- Coordinated Services Across the Lifespan Committee
- Juvenile Justice Collaborating Committee
- Multi-Disciplinary Team
- Suicide Death Review Team
- Presenter for ECASD Mandatory Reporting
- Crisis Team
- Youth Leadership Eau Claire
- 980 Intercounty Standing Teleconference
- Overdose Death Review Team
- Criminal Justice Collaborating Council
- Sharps Disposal Group
- Intergovernmental community collaboration to address homelessness in Eau Claire
- Crisis Urgent Care and Observation Facilities Advisory Committee with Wisconsin Department of Health Services.
- Wisconsin Legislative Council Study Committee on Emergency Detention and Involuntary Commitment of Minors.
- Junior Achievement

Staff actively participated in the following county committees.

- United Way
- EMS Committee
- Chippewa - St. Croix Passenger Rail Commission
- Communicable Disease Taskforce

Corporation Counsel Alignment with Strategic Plan

Ensure Financial Stability.	Innovate and adapt.	Improve Collaboration
Work with DHS to promote more cost-efficient processes in service of statutory paperwork in juvenile cases.	Prosecute cases in the most efficient manner through use of technology.	Through the use of technology collaborate with the courts, agencies and governmental bodies.
Work with DHS and CSA to make sure the county is capturing all the IV-D and IV-E funding for legal services provided.	Continue to evaluate and identify possible areas for increased efficiency and reduced costs.	Provide training to internal and external departments and agencies to promote efficiency and knowledge in services and roles-County Board, Law Enforcement.

Corporation Counsel 2025 Opportunities

- In REM foreclosures to be filed for properties where taxes are still owed for 2020.
- Code and Policy revisions related to finance policies and budget process.
- Continue participation in statewide groups such as WCSEA, WACCC, State Bar Govt. Lawyers, so that we can remain current with the law and issues that are relevant to the county, the corporation counsel office, and the child support agency.
- Finalize the new Military Policy for Eau Claire County under USERRA Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act through the Human Resources Committee.
- Continue to promote training and cross training within the office to expand the capabilities of our existing staff.
- Provide training for mandated reporters.
- Provide training to Law Enforcement on Ch. 51 process updates.
- Continue to work with the Department of Human Services on providing timely permanency to children in out-of-home care.
- Continue to promote a system within the office that allows employees flexibility to work remotely when necessary.
- Continue to work on more paperless system in the office.
- Work with Dept. of Human Services and Information Systems on updates to HIPAA Policy.
- Update County's Record Retention Schedule in Eau Claire County Code.

General Legal Services

2024 Budget
\$869,853

2024 Levy
\$832,853

FTE: 6.98

Provide contract, ordinance and resolution review and drafting, provide legal advice to departments and county board. Prosecution of county citations. Process claims against the county. Protect county interests and reduce liability risk.

OUTPUTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Number of Child Abuse Restraining Orders opened	24	12	20	33
Number of contracts (All) Maintained	258	263	265	268
Number of Litigation Claims Opened for Year/still Pending in Litigation at end year	2/2	2/1	7/6	0/3
Number of Non-Litigated Claims Opened for Year/# of Non-Litigated Claims Pending at end of year	12/5	17/2	23/9	35/10
Number of county ordinance violations pretrials held	46	32	26	19
Number or ordinances and resolutions reviewed prior to Cty Bd	111	97	101	161
IN REM Referred/Filed	NA	NA	48/17	55/22
OUTCOMES				
	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Number of Claims paid	7	6	7	16
Number of Claims denied/no action	10	17	13	21
Number of pretrials convicted to dismissed	NA	11/11	12/11	12/2
IN REM Properties Foreclosed	NA	NA	3	11

NA Data is unavailable for this new tracking measurement

CHIPS, JIPS, TPRs and DHS Legal Services

Provide legal counsel and representation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) by processing children in need of protection and services (CHIPS) cases, juveniles in need of protection and services (JIPS) cases, and termination of parental rights (TPRs) cases. Protect children and allow them to thrive. Maintain families when possible.

OUTPUTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Number of CHIPS cases opened	119	99	106	64
Number of CHIPS cases Drug related	65	52	35	28
Number of JIPS cases opened	114	87	133	100
Number of Minor guardianship cases opened	22	11	12	16
Number of TPR cases opened **	6/18	8/5	21	7

*** TPR 1st number Opened Corp. Counsel Atty/2nd number opened contracted ECC attorneys*

OUTCOMES	2021	2022	2023	YTD 2024
Number of CHIPS Petitions Filed to referred	98/119	81/99	90/106	53/64
Number of JIPS Petitions Filed to referred	22/114	11/87	32/133	26/100
Number of Minor Guardianships Filed to referred	9/22	17/11	9/12	16/16
Out of Home Placements at end of year/Total Placements	120/235	102/194	108/174	110/176

Chapters 51, 54, and 55 and Annual Reviews

Provide legal counsel and representation to the Department of Human Services (DHS) by drafting and review of legal documents, court representation in matters prosecuting Chapter 51 mental commitments, Chapters 54 and 55 temporary guardianships, guardianships and protective placements and annual protective placement reviews. Protect individuals with mental illness and the residents of the county. Protect vulnerable adults from abuse / neglect.

OUTPUTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Number of Chapter 51 cases opened	331	367	341	450
Number of Chapter 51 (New) cases committed	40	28	48	25
Number of Chapter 51 recommitment cases continued	31	47	38	47
Continued signed stipulation	26	30	30	40

Continued via court appearances	5	17	8	7
Number of Chapters 54 and 55 cases opened	77	59	59	50
Number of Chapter 54 Temporary Guardianship cases opened	43	39	33	37
Number of Protective Placement Annual reviews scheduled	281	293	297	304
Total fees collected from 54, 55 and Annual Reviews	\$30,600	\$29,675	\$30,128	\$43,260

OUTCOMES	2021	2022	2023	YTD 2024
Number of CH. 51 Cases filed to referred	40/331	28/367	48/341	25/450
Number of Recommitted cases to Initiated Recommitments	31/40	47/51	38/48	25/47
Number of Ch. 54/55 contested/Uncontested	42/239	37/256	33/264	36/268

Collections				
Provide legal counsel and representation to any department of the county requiring assistance in pursuing collection and reimbursement.				
OUTPUTS	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Number of OPEN Collection Files	190	183	176	172
OUTCOMES	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>YTD 2024</u>
Closed Collection Files	7	9	4	10
Amount of payments received from tax intercept	\$5,124	\$5,759	\$6,184	\$4894
Amount of payments received, excluding tax intercepts	\$195	\$165	\$195	\$105
Total amount collected:	\$5,319	\$5,924	\$6,379	\$4999