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# Prosecuting Attorney

## Mission Statement:

Safety, security, and justice for the community through competent, ethical advocacy. Effective representation of county interests.

## Functions:

- The Prosecuting Attorney prosecutes felonies and misdemeanors within county jurisdiction.
- The Prosecuting Attorney provides legal counsel to the Board of County Commissioners, defends the county in civil actions and advises department heads and law enforcement agencies.
- The Prosecuting Attorney provides child support enforcement for the state and victim/witness services.

### Criminal Division: (eight attorneys, including the elected Prosecuting Attorney)

Prosecutes crimes committed by juveniles and adults from initial review and filing through the appellate process. Provides advice and training in support of law enforcement agencies. Handles related matters such as probation violations, restoration of firearm rights, etc. Participates in diversion programs such as the drug courts and mental health court. The highest priorities of this section are the prosecution of violent crime, sex offenses, traffic crimes impacting public safety, drug dealing, and property offenses.

### Civil Division: (four attorneys, including the Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney)

Advises county personnel and provides opinions on legal issues and documentation. One position is for the Child Support Division which through a state contract enforces family financial support and related paternity actions and Interstate Compact cases for the D.S.H.S. Division of Child Support. One position is a land use and GMA deputy as well as code enforcement and one position is a Public Works roads deputy. The division has attorneys licensed in all federal and Washington courts and represents the county in all legal matters (except as assigned to outside insurance pool and employment law counsel.)

### Administrative Division:(9.8 staff support equivalent)

Responsible for day to day operations essential to keeping the department running while providing all administrative and secretarial support to the three divisions. Included within this section is case management, personnel management and employee assistance, all financial matters (budget, grants, bills and payments) correspondence and office policy. This number includes the office manager, six and one-half assistants who support the criminal and civil division, one and one-half assistants as staff for support enforcement, and .8 FTE victim-witness liaison. The victim/witness liaison works with the victim/witness legal secretary to lend support to victims in crimes against the person and assists victims of all crimes seeking restitution or crime victims fund compensation; additionally she acts as liaison with the Bounceback Check Diversion program and the Friendship Diversion Program.

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## Long Term Goals:

- Effective prosecution of crime to provide for the safety of the community, seek justice and hold offenders accountable.
- Enhanced victim/witness program and establishment of crime victim assistance and intervention programs.
- Support alternative justice measures (e.g., juvenile drug court, teen court, prevention work, substance abuse treatment, bad check diversion, and felony diversion) as possible without impairment of the primary mission of the office.
- Train and develop competent, professional deputy prosecutors and staff; cross-train as feasible.
- Establishment of more cost-effective autopsy procedures.

## Short Term Objectives:

- More effective civil and criminal prosecution.
- Continue balancing workload assignments and responsibilities with continued personnel turnover and staff-hour reductions.
- More rapid review of referrals from law enforcement.
- Reduce time-lines to complete case prosecution.

## Accomplishments in 2008

- With the County Commissioners' support we hired an experienced governmental civil attorney with extensive land use experience which enabled us to bring litigation in-house that had previously been outsourced to private Seattle firms for savings to the County and taxpayers of hundreds of thousands of dollars in future billings.
- This hiring also provided the opportunity to increase oversight of employment counsel's representation on various County employment related matters.
- Additionally, the civil division continued emphasis on increasing government accountability by providing more thorough and more frequent legal representation to the County organization as well as responded to an ever-increasing number of public records requests. The civil division also initiated review and purging of archived civil legal documents in compliance with Secretary of State retention schedule requirements in order to reduce the document storage needs of the office.
- In the criminal division, attorney turnover slowed but did not cease in 2008 due to problems with the housing market and moves to be closer to family. Despite the turnover, staff attorneys continued aggressive prosecution of high criminal caseloads trying 34 cases in the first half of 2008 with 33 convictions. Should this rate continue for the entire year, it would represent a 50% increase in trials going out over 2007.
- We further refined guidelines for the bad check diversion program and worked with law enforcement so that guidelines for accepting checks for prosecution are now the same in three out of the four jurisdictions. We continued referring appropriate felonies and misdemeanors to the Friendship Diversion program for non-violent property offenders.
- Enhanced state funding allowed further enhancements to the victim/witness program.

- We continued participation in other existing programs such as Drug Court and the Mental Health docket of Superior Court without further reductions in service and continued supplying instructors to law enforcement for the Reserve Academy.
- Various office policies were written and adopted where none existed before. A Charging and Dispositions Policy for deputy prosecutor's and law enforcement's use is nearing completion and will be adopted by mid-August 2008 to be followed shortly by the revision of coroner policy which was last updated over a decade ago. Finally, with the assistance of the Human Resources Department, we continued our commitment to a better workplace by sending our management level employees to supervisory and leadership training.

## Workload Indicators:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Estimate
<b>Felonies</b>				
Filed	585	589	251	600
Hearings	10,508	10089	4577	11000
Trials	45	63	42	84
<b>Juvenile Offenses Filed</b>	352	326	176	352
Offenses Referred	683	552	310	620
Hearings	6,116	10,087	5,043	10,087
<b>Juvenile Truancy By school year (July/June)</b>				
Hearings			1389	2778
First Appearances			501	1002
Contempts			591	1182
Reviews			297	594
<b>District Court Crimes Filed and Citations</b>	1,688	1771	759	1800
<b>Civil</b>				
Public Record Requests		34	79	241
Legal Action Requests-excluding Road Dept, Parks and Maintenance		369	181	365
Legal Action Requests-including Road Dept, Parks and Maintenance		25	13	26
Forfeitures		12	19	40
<b>Support Enforcement Cases</b>	230	308	187	360

## Staffing Level:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Full Time Equivalents	18.69	19.8	21.8	22.36

## Prosecuting Attorney Operations Budget

### Revenues:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	45,944	48,697	25,697	75,036
Charges for Goods and Services	37,103	57,712	1,609	83,170
Fines and Forfeits	0	122	313	600
Miscellaneous Revenues	4,894	2,050	330	75
Nonrevenues	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	190,000	229,228	378,000	150,000
General Tax Support	975,425	1,010,445	330,327	1,440,582
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,253,366</b>	<b>\$1,348,254</b>	<b>\$736,276</b>	<b>\$1,749,463</b>

### Expenditures:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Salaries and Wages	914,975	952,867	533,614	1,259,152
Personnel Benefits	150,796	266,075	147,211	384,211
Supplies	32,298	36,427	29,297	35,100
Other Services and Charges	59,972	61,813	18,020	58,300
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	95,325	1,072	2,494	800
Capital Outlay	0	30,000	5,640	11,900
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,253,366</b>	<b>\$1,348,254</b>	<b>\$736,276</b>	<b>\$1,749,463</b>

## Family Services/Child Support Budget

### Revenues:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	157,472	212,332	31,878	255,410
Charges for Goods and Services	0	0	0	0
Fines and Forfeits	0	0	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	0	0	0	0
Nonrevenues	0	0	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
General Tax Support	40,625	-30,141	68,657	-36,910
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$198,097</b>	<b>\$182,191</b>	<b>\$100,535</b>	<b>\$218,500</b>

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**Expenditures:**

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Salaries and Wages	129,095	112,676	58,386	122,598
Personnel Benefits	23,704	35,713	18,671	46,016
Supplies	2,366	5,455	2,124	6,300
Other Services and Charges	25,634	27,057	20,088	30,621
Intergovernmental Services	431	68	0	300
Interfund Payments for Services	16867	1,222	1,267	3,100
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	9,565
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$198,097</b>	<b>\$182,191</b>	<b>\$100,535</b>	<b>\$218,500</b>

**Coroner Budget****Revenues:**

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Intergovernmental Revenues	14,969	25,271	17,452	50,400
General Tax Support	52,529	81,425	23,346	68,261
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,498</b>	<b>\$106,696</b>	<b>\$40,798</b>	<b>\$118,661</b>

**Expenditures:**

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Other Services and Charges	67,498	106,696	40,798	118,661
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$67,498</b>	<b>\$106,696</b>	<b>\$40,798</b>	<b>\$118,661</b>

**Local Crime Victim Compensation Budget****Revenues:**

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Beginning Fund Balance	246,823	247,694	225,654	209,776
Taxes	0	0	0	0
Licenses and Permits	0	0	0	0
Intergovernmental Revenues	18,256	0	18,256	42,968
Charges for Goods and Services	53,777	52,360	25,619	51,000
Fines and Forfeits	2	9	0	0
Miscellaneous Revenues	-4,701	0	0	0
Nonrevenues	0	101	0	0
Other Financing Sources	0	0	0	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$314,155</b>	<b>\$300,155</b>	<b>\$269,529</b>	<b>\$303,744</b>

## Expenditures:

	2006 Actual	2007 Actual	6/30/08 Actual	2009 Budget
Salaries and Wages	28,048	45,741	19,321	44,513
Personnel Benefits	5,618	13,831	6,951	15,015
Supplies	1,990	917	0	1,150
Other Services and Charges	7,896	684	175	2,100
Intergovernmental Services	0	0	0	0
Interfund Payments for Services	26,435	13,328	11,786	43,593
Capital Outlay	0	0	0	0
Ending Fund Balance	244,168	225,654	231,296	197,373
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$314,155</b>	<b>\$300,155</b>	<b>\$269,529</b>	<b>\$303,744</b>

## Agency Structure:

### Prosecuting Attorney

#### Administration

#### Criminal Division

#### Civil Division

Administrative Assistant

Chief Criminal Deputy  
Prosecuting Attorney  
(Unfilled)

Chief Deputy Prosecuting  
Attorney also acting as Chief  
Civil

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor III

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor III  
(Roads)

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor III

Deputy Prosecutor II  
(Family/Child Support)

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor II

Legal Assistant

Deputy Prosecutor II

Sr. Legal Secretary

Deputy Prosecutor II

Legal Secretary

Deputy Prosecutor I

Legal Secretary

Victim/ Witness Assistant