

County Attorney

County Attorney: Jewel White
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Department Purpose

County Attorney's Office is responsible for the representation of the Board of County Commissioners, Constitutional Officers, and all of the departments, divisions, regulatory boards, and advisory boards of county government in all legal matters relating to their official responsibilities. The Office of the County Attorney is also responsible for the prosecution and defense of all civil actions for and on behalf of County government and reviews all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bonds, and other written instruments.

Budget Summary

All Funds						
Expenditures	FY24 General Fund	FY24 Non-General Fund	FY24 Total	FY25 General Fund	FY25 Non-General Fund	FY25 Total
Personnel Services	\$5,749,690	\$ 0	\$5,749,690	\$5,501,360	\$ 0	\$5,501,360
Operating Expenses	\$491,810	\$ 0	\$491,810	\$221,690	\$ 0	\$221,690
Total	\$6,241,500	\$ 0	\$6,241,500	\$5,723,050	\$ 0	\$5,723,050
FTE	33.0	0.0	33.0	33.0	0.0	33.0

Fund 0001: General Fund					
Expenditures	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
Personnel Services	\$ 4,859,890	\$5,032,130	\$5,311,971	\$5,749,690	\$5,501,360
Operating Expenses	\$ 287,002	\$ 363,466	\$ 358,834	\$ 491,810	\$ 221,690
Capital Outlay	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0
Total	\$ 5,146,892	\$ 5,395,596	\$5,670,805	\$ 6,241,500	\$5,723,050
FTE	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0

Efficiencies and Cost-Saving Measures

FY25:

The County Attorney's Office was able to realize a total savings of \$268,450 for the FY25 Budget. This included the following actions:

- When possible, the office has filled vacancies created by retirement and resignation of senior staff with more recently barred attorneys at a lower paygrade and salary.
- Several line items were reduced to align with historic actual expenditures.
- Local meetings have continued to be held on Microsoft Teams causing a decrease in the amount of local travel reimbursement allowing the office to have additional funds for training opportunities for newer staff members.

County Attorney

Topics for Discussion and Budget Drivers

Topics for Discussion

Outside Counsel

- The \$250,000 for Outside Counsel previously budgeted in County Attorney is being moved to General Government for FY25. This is neither an increase nor a decrease of funding – simply a change in the location of these budgeted funds.

Staffing and Vacancies

- County Attorney reported a turnover rate of 15.0% for attorneys in FY22 and 25.0% for attorneys and 23.1% for support staff in FY23. To help alleviate this issue, the department upgraded three Assistant County Attorney 2 positions to Senior Assistant County Attorney and one Assist County 1 to Assistant County Attorney 2, both of which provided higher pay ranges to staff. County Administration also approved additional salary adjustments across the department for a total Personnel Services increase of \$115,500 in FY24. These actions appear to have resolved this issue for now as vacancies are currently at zero and there are no proposed staff augmentations at this time.

Budget Drivers

- The FY25 Budget decreases by \$518,450 (8.3%) to \$5.7M (this includes moving \$250,000 of outside counsel funding to General Government as explained above).
- Personnel Services decrease by \$248,330 (4.3%) to \$5.5M due to turnover and the filling of those positions at lower salaries. This number includes a 3.0% salary adjustment on the mid-point for all employees, and Florida Retirement System (FRS) actuarial retirement increases.
- Operating Expenses decrease by \$270,120 (54.9%) to \$221,690 due to a reduced PC purchase plan in FY25 and the Outside Counsel move explained above.
- County Attorney's FTE remain flat at 33.0 from FY24.

Budget Summary by Program and Fund

County Attorney

Represents the BCC, Constitutional Officers, and all departments, divisions, regulatory boards, and advisory boards of County government in all legal matters relating to their official responsibilities. Conducts the prosecution and defense of all civil actions for County government and reviews all ordinances, resolutions, contracts, bonds, and other written instruments.

Fund	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
General Fund	\$5,050,636	\$5,172,341	\$5,469,107	\$5,991,500	\$5,723,050
Total	\$5,050,636	\$5,172,341	\$5,469,107	\$5,991,500	\$5,723,050
FTE by Program	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0	33.0

County Attorney

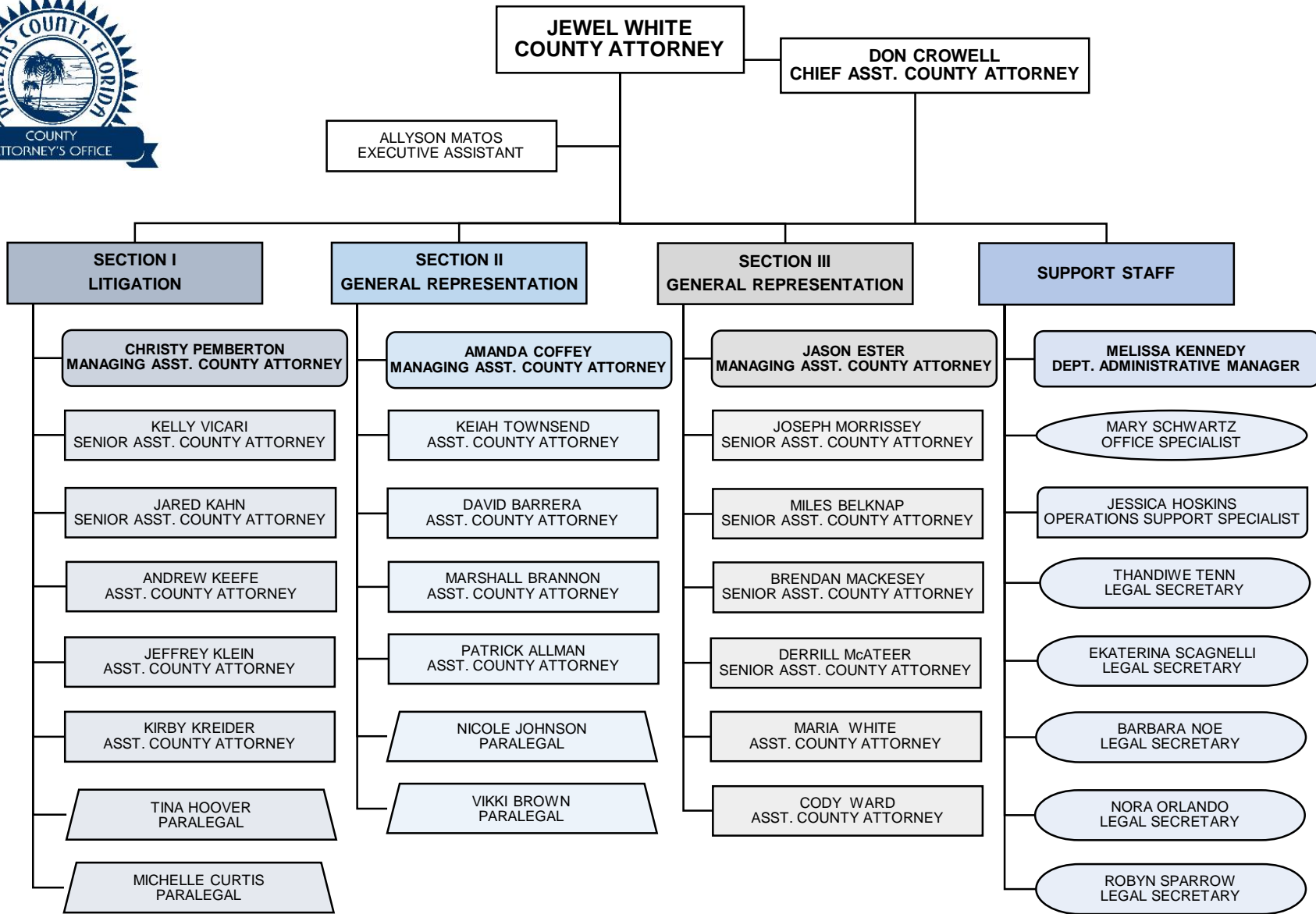
Outside Legal Counsel

Outside legal counsel for matters involving a conflict or unsupported legal specialty areas.

Fund	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Budget
General Fund	\$96,256	\$223,255	\$201,697	\$250,000	\$0
Total	\$96,256	\$223,255	\$201,697	\$250,000	\$0
FTE by Program	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Attachments:

1. Organizational Chart (p. 4)
2. Budget Reports (p. 5)



**Pinellas County
Standard Detail
Fund: 0001 - General Fund
Version: County Admin Review**

Expenditures	FY21 Actual	FY22 Actual	FY23 Actual	FY24 Budget	FY25 Request	Budget to Budget Change	Budget to Budget % Change
Personnel Services	4,859,890	5,032,130	5,311,971	5,749,690	5,501,360	(248,330)	-4.32%
Operating Expenses	287,002	363,466	358,834	491,810	221,690	(270,120)	-54.92%
Expenditures Total	5,146,892	5,395,596	5,670,805	6,241,500	5,723,050	(518,450)	-8.31%