



What We Do

The Law Department is responsible for all of the legal affairs of the City. The Department represents the City, the Mayor, other elected officials and the City's agencies in all affirmative and defensive civil litigation. The Department represents the City in juvenile delinquency prosecutions brought in Family Court and Administrative Code enforcement proceedings brought in Criminal Court. Law Department attorneys draft and review local and State legislation, real estate leases, procurement contracts and financial instruments for the sale of municipal bonds. The Department also provides legal counsel to City officials on a wide range of issues such as civil rights, immigration, education, intellectual property, land use and environmental policy.

Our Services and Goals

Service 1: Represent the government in litigation and other legal matters involving the City's interests.

- Goal 1a: Limit the City's liability as a result of claims.
- Goal 1b: Reduce the City's caseload in state court.
- Goal 1c: Reduce the City's caseload in federal court.

Service 2: Prosecute juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court.

- Goal 2a: Balance the needs of juveniles and the community in delinquency cases.

Service 3: Establish and enforce child support orders in interstate cases.

- Goal 3a: Increase the percentage of out-of-state families that receive child support.

How We Performed

- During the first four months of Fiscal 2014 the total citywide payout for judgments and claims brought against the City in state and federal court increased 25 percent compared to the same period of Fiscal 2013. This was primarily due to the settlement of multiple 20-year old cases regarding the former Pelham Landfill, as well as a medical malpractice case that settled after trial.
- Dismissals and discontinuances in federal court decreased by 15 percent, or 12 cases, during the reporting period. During the first four months of Fiscal 2013 dismissals and discontinuances were 4.7 percent of actions pending in federal court, compared with 4.0 percent of actions pending during the first four months of Fiscal 2014.
- During the reporting period the Department's juvenile conviction rate increased seven percentage points compared to the same period in Fiscal 2013. After remaining stable since Fiscal 2010, the percentage of referred cases filed for prosecution increased 10 percentage points during the reporting period.
- Crime victims assessed for community-based services increased 43 percent during the reporting period in part due to the Department's continuing efforts to make it known to attorneys that services for victims are available.

Service 1: Represent the government in litigation and other legal matters involving the City's interests.

Goal 1a: Limit the City's liability as a result of claims.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
★ Total citywide payout for judgments and claims (\$000)	\$560,852	\$506,048	\$490,175	↕	↕	\$126,964	\$158,211
★ Total cases commenced against the City	9,030	9,695	9,528	*	*	3,149	3,053
- Cases commenced against the City in state court	6,838	7,682	7,745	*	*	2,518	2,449
- Cases commenced against the City in federal court	2,192	2,013	1,781	*	*	631	602

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ⬆ shows desired direction

Goal 1b: Reduce the City's caseload in state court.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
★ Cases pending in state court	16,707	17,020	17,884	19,500	19,500	17,556	18,302
- Cases pending on trial calendar	NA	NA	2,256	*	*	2,189	2,202
Affirmative motions to dismiss or for summary judgment	NA	NA	1,798	*	*	564	635
★ Win rate on affirmative motions (%)	NA	NA	72%	70%	70%	71%	72%

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ⬆ shows desired direction

Goal 1c: Reduce the City's caseload in federal court.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
★ Cases pending in federal court	NA	NA	1,711	1,700	1,700	1,683	1,666
Dismissals or discontinuances	NA	NA	264	*	*	79	67

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ⬆ shows desired direction

Service 2: Prosecute juvenile delinquency cases in Family Court.

Goal 2a: Balance the needs of juveniles and the community in delinquency cases.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
★ Juveniles successfully referred to a diversion program with no new delinquency referral within one year (%)	NA	NA	90%	⬆	⬆	NA	86%
Referred cases filed for prosecution (%)	55%	55%	56%	55%	55%	48%	58%
Juvenile conviction rate (%)	71%	73%	73%	70%	70%	70%	77%
Crime victims assessed for community-based services (%)	46%	44%	36%	35%	35%	16%	59%

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ⬆ shows desired direction

Service 3: Establish and enforce child support orders in interstate cases.

Goal 3a: Increase the percentage of out-of-state families that receive child support.

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
Filing of enforcement referrals within 60 days of referral (%)	NA	NA	95%	*	*	100%	92%
★ Families entitled to a support order that get a support order (%)	NA	NA	65%	65%	65%	61%	64%

★ Critical Indicator "NA" - means Not Available in this report ↕ ⬆ shows desired direction

Agency Customer Service

Performance Indicators	Actual			Target		4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY13	FY14
Customer Experience							
Letters responded to in 14 days (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%
E-mails responded to in 14 days (%)	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%

Agency Resources

Resource Statistics	Actual			Sept. 2013 MMR Plan	Updated Plan	Plan	4-Month Actual	
	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY14 ¹	FY15 ¹	FY13	FY14
Expenditures (\$000,000) ²	\$135.0	\$137.4	\$143.9	\$147.4	\$173.0	\$158.5	\$56.8	\$54.9
Revenues (\$000,000)	\$43.4	\$27.6	\$38.8	\$21.5	\$22.0	\$20.5	\$21.3	\$12.7
Personnel	1,307	1,399	1,445	1,432	1,441	1,414	1,380	1,427
Overtime paid (\$000)	\$763	\$969	\$1,374	\$1	\$1	\$1	\$283	\$547
¹ February 2014 Financial Plan ² Expenditures include all funds. "NA" - Not Available in this report								

Noteworthy Changes, Additions or Deletions

None.

For additional agency performance statistics, please visit:

- Annual reports:
<http://www.nyc.gov/html/law/html/reports/reports.shtml>

For more information on the agency, please visit: www.nyc.gov/law.

