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OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COUNSEL

MEMORANDUM

DATE: December 19, 2023
TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Christian M. Curtis, County Counsel *CMC*
SUBJECT: CEO Report

- As of December 1, 2023, the bulk of the County's active civil litigation (34 cases) is handled in house, with only 5 cases utilizing the assistance of outside counsel. County Counsel attorneys regularly appear in all departments of the Mendocino County Superior Court, the California Court of Appeal, First Appellate District, and in federal courts, including the Northern District of California and US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.
- During calendar year 2023, County Counsel attorneys assisted with closing 25 lawsuits filed against the County and have handled 65 bail bond matters.
- During calendar year 2023, County Counsel attorneys have supported county departments with review and responses to more than 700 public records act requests, drafted at least 11 ordinances, and reviewed or drafted 191 resolutions.
- During fiscal year 2023-2024, County Counsel attorneys have reviewed or drafted 665 contracts.
- The dependency team of 3 attorneys currently manages 292 active litigation cases, advises Family & Children's Services in prelitigation through appellate stages of child welfare matters, and assists with ongoing review of numerous records requests.
- County Counsel represents the County Public Conservator, County Public Guardian, and Public Administrator in approximately 75 conservatorship (confidential LPS and probate) and decedent's estates matters and represents Behavioral Health in Petitions for Assisted Outpatient Treatment and responses to referrals from criminal and justice courts for LPS conservatorship investigation.
- County Counsel attorneys also collaborate with stakeholders and the courts in various areas, including recent implementation of dual jurisdiction protocol allowing for youth within the court's jurisdiction to be served simultaneously by the dependency and justice courts; and preparing for implementation of CARE court (required in Mendocino and 49 other counties by December 1, 2024).

CMC/jc