



Department of Law
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Central Purpose

- Provide the highest quality legal advice and counsel to the City and its departments, officials, and employees
- Represent the City, its departments, officials and employees in litigation and other legal matters
- Minimize the City's exposure to financial liability for claims and lawsuits
- Promote the fiscal well-being of the City by effectively representing and counseling clients on bonds, taxes, contracts and other complex financial transactions
- Improve the quality of life in the city by enforcing the Municipal Code

Key Facts

The Department of Law is one of the oldest law offices in Chicago and its alumni include such notable lawyers and public servants as Clarence Darrow, former Mayor Harold Washington, and Earl L. Neal. The department is fortunate to employ some of the City's most prolific and talented trial attorneys, as well as high-caliber transactional attorneys who finalize complicated and large financial transactions for the City, all for a fraction of what outside law firms would charge. The department is a full-service law office covering a wide range of practice areas such as public finance, economic development, contracts, personal injury, civil rights, appeals, real estate and land use and labor relations. In addition to transactional and litigation work, department attorneys are actively engaged in drafting, reviewing, and advising clients as to proposed federal, state, and local legislation, and also assisting clients to ensure that their policies and operations comply with applicable legal requirements. Law Department attorneys are closely involved in housing, nuisance abatement, environmental issues, and anti-crime programs that significantly improve public safety and



the quality of life in neighborhoods across the city. All of this varied legal work is performed by individuals who are committed to public service and whose institutional knowledge and experience results in a high quality product.

Goals

In 2011, the Law Department will focus on reducing the City's exposure for judgments and settlements, addressing the housing problems created by the economic downturn and maximizing revenue collections. Specifically, the Law Department will continue with its innovative "bulk case" program which has reduced the number of new lawsuits filed against Chicago police officers by 50%. Further, the department will also continue its efforts to identify defensible cases in a variety of areas, such as slip and falls and police misconduct, and aggressively litigate those cases.

The current economic downturn has led to a variety of housing problems that have adversely impacted the quality of life in Chicago communities. The Law Department will continue to work with client departments including the Departments of Buildings, Streets & Sanitation, Environment, Police and Fire to address these problems, including the following initiatives: (1) Enforcement of the recently enacted Open Foundations ordinance which gives the City the

tools to quickly, effectively and economically deal with the problem of open and abandoned construction sites; (2) Prompt and accurate identification of property owners charged with code violations, which increases compliance; (3) Prosecution of problematic general contractors and developers through the Bad Developer Task Force; (4) Aggressive prosecution of drug and gang house cases involving both residential and commercial properties; and (5) Use of the recently amended state Condominium Property Act to deconvert distressed condominium properties and restore them to productive use.

In light of the economic downturn, the department has continued to look for ways to increase revenue collection as well as to save on funds expended for City services. The department continues to work with the Benefits Management Office to recover costs from employees who allowed ineligible dependents to receive medical benefits. The Law Department is also taking advantage of a previously unused provision of the Illinois statute that allows the City to foreclose on demolition liens in the same judicial proceeding as the underlying demolition case, rather than instituting a separate action in a mortgage foreclosure courtroom. This allows the City to foreclose on demolition liens on an expedited basis with a significant reduction in cost. The Law Department will also continue to do certain collection-related work in-house for a significant savings. This includes sending out the initial demand letters to individuals who owe debt to the City rather than referring the case to outside collection agencies and doing title work in-house.

Employees

Full Time Positions	Amount
	441

2011 Budget

Fund	Amount
Corporate Fund	\$26,830,183
Water Fund	\$1,344,618
TIF Administration	\$1,041,407
Chicago O'Hare Airport Fund	\$1,785,053
Chicago Midway Airport Fund	\$496,338
Community Development Block Grant	\$1,658,148
Sewer Fund	\$563,173
Vehicle Tax Fund	\$1,300,374
Other Grant Fund	\$1,020,285
TOTAL	\$36,039,552

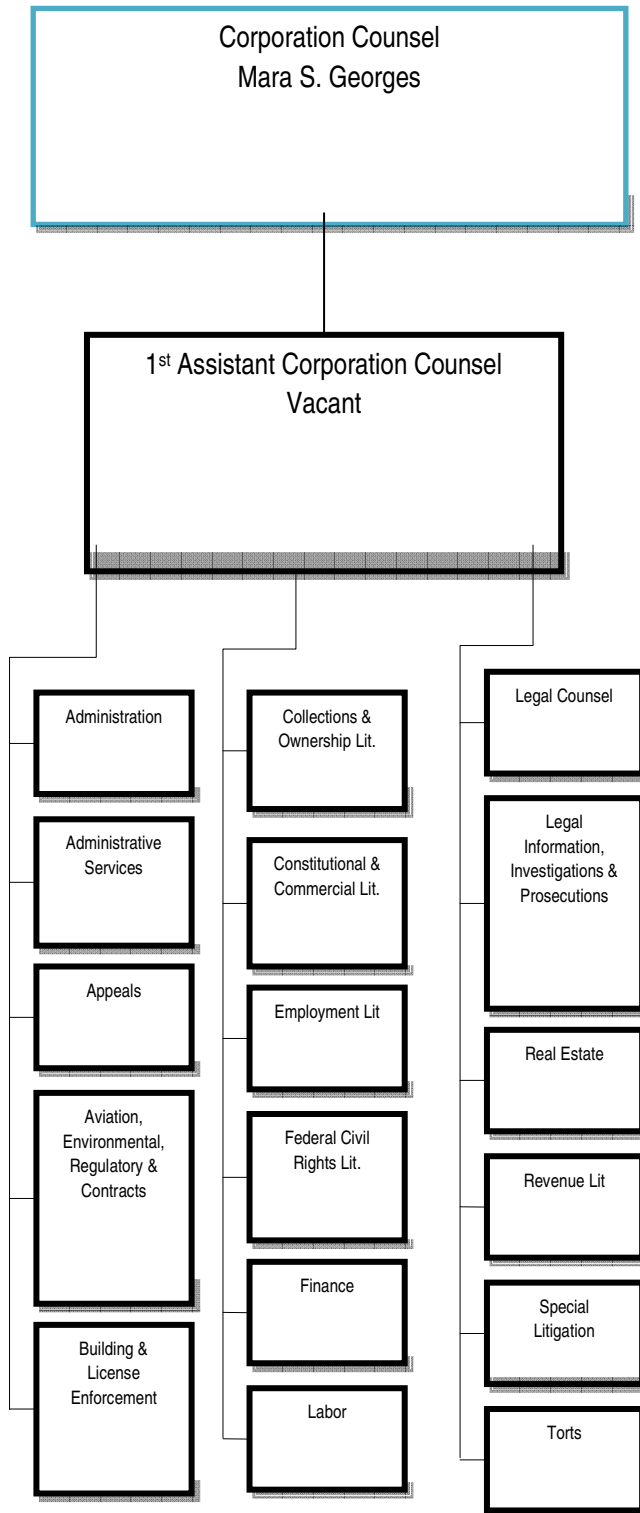
Grants

FEDERAL	
Grant or Program	Term
Community Development Block Grant	2011

Major Contracts

Project	Term
Greater Illinois Title Co.	12/31/14
American Legal Publishing	8/31/11
Pitney Bowes Software	5/12/13
Nova Pro, INC	4/30/12
LexisNexis	9/30/13
Grubb & Ellis	12/31/13
Mitrtech Holding Company	02/02/12
Law Bulletin	12/31/14
Carlin Transcription Services	4/30/12
DCM Court Reporting	9/30/13
Esquire Deposition Services	4/30/12
Lydia Mszal Court Reporters	9/30/13
Minnich Court Reporting Services	9/30/13
Patti Blair Court Reporters	9/30/13
Urlaub, Bowen & Associates, Inc	4/30/12
Victoria Court Reporter Services	9/30/13

Organizational Chart



Facility Locations

Location	Address	Suite	Zip	Phone
City Hall	121 N. LaSalle	600	60602	312-744-0200
	33 N. LaSalle	200	60602	
	30 N. LaSalle	700 800 900 1020 1040 1230 1400 1610 1640 1700 1720	60602	312-744-8791 312-744-7150 312-744-9010 312-744-5100 312-744-5100 312-742-6433
	740 N. Sedgwick	1 st floor	60654	312-742-8422

Unions Representing Department Employees

Unions
AFCSE