



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R 25 - 0 2 8 1  
JUN 0 3 2025

**REPORT RE:**

**CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE RESTAFFING PLAN WITH  
COST/BENEFIT ANALYSIS**

The Honorable City Council  
City of Los Angeles  
Room 395, City Hall  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

The City Attorney's Office respectfully provides the attached report in response to the requests made by the Budget & Finance Committee and City Council for a summary and analysis of the civil liabilities, the City's use of Outside Counsel, and recommendations for cost-effective strategies to address increased liabilities. Specifically, this report is in response to:

- C.F. 24-0600-S37, Motion 12A: Request for the following:
  - Number of cases processed each year, broken down by cases handled by Outside Counsel versus the City Attorney's Office;
  - Settlement and verdict amounts by type of lawsuit (e.g. trip and fall, right-of-way road incidents, personnel, etc.);
  - Settlement amounts for cases settled by Outside Counsel versus the City Attorney's Office;
  - Trends associated with Outside Counsel expenses; and
  - Comparison of the City's Settlement amounts relative to similar cases handled by the County of Los Angeles.



- C.F. 24-0600-S114, Item No. 7:
  - An overview of the organizational structure of this Office;
  - Information related to the staffing needs for each branch to perform the work for which each branch is responsible; and
  - A cost/benefit analysis of performing this work within this Office versus hiring Outside Counsel to do the work.

The report is organized to: (1) report on the civil liabilities of the City by category as requested; (2) report on outside counsel needs and trends; and (3) a plan to meet the staffing needs for this Office to meet the growing legal demands in a cost-effective way.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the undersigned at [Denise.Mills@lacity.org](mailto:Denise.Mills@lacity.org). Either she or another member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By **Denise C. Mills**  
DENISE C. MILLS  
Chief Deputy City Attorney

DM:me  
Enclosure