



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney  
Hydee Feldstein Soto

April 23, 2026

Honorable Members  
Budget and Finance Committee  
City Hall  
212 N. Spring Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

It is my honor to serve as your Los Angeles City Attorney. Your continued willingness to partner with my office to address urgent staffing and operational needs has been both welcome and greatly appreciated. We look forward to continuing that partnership through the current budget process. I understand the importance of the work you will do over the next few weeks and the challenges you will be required to address as you consider the Mayor's proposed budget.

As you know, more than 95 percent of my office's budget is fixed funding for salaries payable to approximately 1,000 dedicated employees. Notwithstanding the limited flexibility we have in expenses, our budget achieves reasonable savings, while maintaining the core resources needed to continue to serve the City and its residents.

Our request for 40 attorney positions and the same amount of support staff positions was denied. However, my office critically needs at least 25 new litigator positions. Since 2013, the number of open cases has soared from 450 to over 2,000 cases in 2026, while our overall staffing numbers have remained stagnated. This imbalance is unsustainable and results in excessive caseloads for our dedicated team. The requested positions are necessary to lower the historically high caseloads currently assigned to each litigator, which stands at 85 cases per litigator, to a caseload of 70. To achieve this reduction, my office estimates that it would take the immediate hiring of 8-10 litigators. Considering the constraints of the upcoming budget, my office seeks the positional authority requested, intending to hire the 8-10 litigation positions to establish a manageable caseload, while maintaining the position allocations for future hiring if cases continue to climb. Furthermore, filling more positions in my office will reduce our reliance on outside counsel.

The ever-growing demands on my office is expected to remain a challenge beyond FY26-27. The surge in both general and complex litigation, along with the volume of legal claims filed against the City show no signs of abating. This ongoing trend underscores the need for sustained investment in both internal and external legal resources. Without these hiring investments, the strain on our limited staff will continue to increase, potentially impacting the quality and timeliness of our legal services. To address this persistent challenge, strategic planning and a long-term commitment is necessary to ensure the Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney can effectively protect the City's interests and uphold its legal obligations.

My office greatly values your ongoing support. If you have any questions or need clarification, please contact me or Barak Vaughn, Managing Director, Budget, Finance and Operations, at [barak.vaughn@lacity.org](mailto:barak.vaughn@lacity.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Hydee Feldstein Soto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hydee" being the most prominent.

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO  
Los Angeles City Attorney

cc: Mayor Karen Bass  
Matt Szabo, City Administrative Officer