

THE OFFICE OF CORPORATION COUNSEL

2024 Annual Report to the Milwaukee County
Board of Supervisors



Strategic Plan

Office of Corporation Counsel's Focus Areas	Milwaukee County Goal Alignment	2027 Goals	We Will Know We're Successful When:
Organizational Strength	1A: Diverse Workforce 1B: Inclusive Culture	Solid systems promote ongoing learning, seamless transitions, and collaboration, ensuring that a diverse team is well-equipped and supported.	Robust succession planning infrastructure ensures employees have opportunities for advancement and knowledge transfer is seamless.
			Compared to 2022, by 2026 more employees agree that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>There is enough training provided for all my regular job responsibilities.</i> • <i>Milwaukee County offers sufficient career development programs to its employees.</i> • <i>I have adequate chance for promotion.</i> • <i>Career advancement opportunities within Milwaukee County are clear to me.</i> • <i>My co-workers do a good job of sharing information.</i> • <i>There is a strong feeling of teamwork.</i>
			Consistent hiring and onboarding processes ensure an equitable start for every employee.
			Employee trainings are part of regular business, and employees have consistent learning opportunities that enhance their ability to advance Milwaukee County's vision.
Integrated Information Systems	2B: Break Down Silos	Integrate and modernize information systems to better serve clients and the public.	All practice area and case information is searchable, stored, and managed in one system (CLIO).
			A free, user-friendly legal research bank is available to the public.
Upstream Prioritization	2A: Resolve Health Disparities 2C: Racial Equity Lens 3A: Invest	More of our staff time is spent on legal work that is upstream (e.g., mental health, housing impact litigation, etc.).	The Office of Corporation Counsel creates transformational change by expanding legal work that directly impacts social determinants of health.
		The Office of Corporation Counsel has	A racial equity lens checklist is consistently



Goal 1

Solid systems promote ongoing learning, seamless transitions, and collaboration, ensuring that a diverse team is well-equipped and supported

- Robust succession planning infrastructure ensures employees have opportunities for advancement and knowledge transfer is seamless.
- Compared to 2022, by 2026 more employees agree that:
 - There is enough training provided for all my regular job responsibilities.
 - Milwaukee County offers sufficient career development programs to its employees.
 - I have adequate chance for promotion.
 - Career advancement opportunities within Milwaukee County are clear to me.
 - My co-workers do a good job of sharing information.
 - There is a strong feeling of teamwork.
- Consistent hiring and onboarding processes ensure an equitable start for every employee. Employee trainings are part of regular business, and employees have consistent learning opportunities that enhance their ability to advance Milwaukee County's vision

Goal 2

Integrate and modernize information systems to better serve clients and the public.

- All practice area and case information is searchable, stored, and managed in one system.
- A free, user-friendly legal research bank is available to the public

Goal 3

More of our staff time is spent on legal work that is upstream (e.g., mental health, housing impact litigation, etc.).

- The Office of Corporation Counsel creates transformational change by expanding legal work that directly impacts social determinants of health

Goal 4

The Office of Corporation Counsel has intentional checkpoints that serve as thought interrupters, improving critical thinking, organizational effectiveness, and its ability to advance Milwaukee County's vision.

- A racial equity lens checklist is consistently used and its impact is documented and shared.

Other highlights from 2024

- Scott Brown was appointed Corporation Counsel by County Executive Crowley and was unanimously confirmed by the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors.
- Appointed William Davidson as Deputy Corporation Counsel.
- Assistant Corporation Counsel Dale Nikolay successfully defended Milwaukee County in multi-day jury trial in federal court ultimately obtaining a verdict of non-liability.
- OCC successfully defended the County in many lawsuits by obtain summary judgment in favor of the county or otherwise having the matter dismissed before trial.
- Sued insulin manufacturers for price gouging scheme.
- Issued RFP for digital transformation project to obtain a new digital platform that will modernize OCC's practice.
- Developed trainings for various are such as employment issues, Public Records, and Open Meetings to mitigate risk for the county.
- Obtained funding for a digital transformation project to modernize OCC's case management system.
- Implemented a standardized and consistent hiring process that casts a wide net for candidates to increase diversity in the pool of candidates and ensure equity in the hiring process.
- Corporation Counsel Brown honored as one the 40 most influential Black Leaders in Wisconsin and honored by the National Black Lawyers Association as one of the top 100 Black lawyers in the country.



Looking forward to 2025

- Deputy Corporation Counsel Jennifer Rhodes joined our team in April 2025 as the first Deputy to be 100% focused on OCC's work in the mental health space.
- Corporation Counsel Scott Brown commences his term on the State Bar of Wisconsin's Board of Governors as July 1, 2025.
- In July, we will begin testing potential new digital platforms for OCC as we are scoring the RFPs.
- Streamlined workflow as OCC has now been reorganized into three internal teams each having a specific practice area and a dedicated Deputy.
- Onboarding 4 attorneys between April and June, and expecting add another by end of the summer. At that point we'll be fully staffed.





**MILWAUKEE
COUNTY**