

COUNTY ATTORNEY

Friend or Foe?

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DO?

1. Prosecute Crimes
2. Juvenile Court
3. Advise and Support County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Township Officials.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DO?

1. Prosecute Crimes (State and County Ordinances/Infractions)
2. Juvenile Court
3. Advise and Support County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Township Officials.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DO?

1. Prosecute Crimes
2. Juvenile Court (Juvenile Delinquencies and Children in Need of Assistance)
3. Advise and Support County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Township Officials.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY DO?

1. Prosecute Crimes
2. Juvenile Court
3. Advise and Support County Elected Officials, Department Heads, and Township Officials. (Legal Counsel for the County in civil matters)



PRIORITY

Keep Our Communities Safe

HOW DO WE KEEP THE COMMUNITY SAFE?

- Fairly and zealously prosecute individuals who violate the law.
- Protect the rights of victims and give victims a voice.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

- [Warren County Attorney's Office](#)
 - Seven (7) Attorneys
 - Office Manager
 - Director of Victim Services
 - Assistant Director of Victim Services
 - Four and a Quarter (4 ¼) Legal Assistants
 - Two (2) Collection Assistants

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

- One Piper



WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

- One **Piper**
- Ten-Month-Old Golden Retriever Therapy Dog in-training.



WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Prosecution

- Four and a half attorneys devoted to criminal prosecution.
- We handle everything from our traffic offenses to our murders.
- Presently, we are special prosecutors in three other counties and in 2018 we filled in as the Acting County Attorney in a neighboring county for two months and then trained the incoming County Attorney.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Prosecution

- Counties can ask for prosecution assistance from the Iowa Attorney General's Office.
- **Statewide Prosecutions Division**
 - Murders
 - Complex Felony Cases
 - Long-term sex offender confinement hearings.
 - Post-Conviction Relief

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Collections Division

- County Attorneys may assume the role of collecting unpaid financial obligations imposed by the Court in criminal matters.
- State of Iowa receives first 72% of what is collected. County retains the remainder.
 - County Attorney's Office Court Fine Fund
 - Pay for our two Collections Assistants from this fund.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Collections Division

- Jail Fees
 - We collect unpaid jail fees for our County Sheriff.
 - 100% of the money returns to the County.
 - 60% to the Sheriff's Jail Fees Fund.
 - 40% to County General Fund.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Collections Division

- Holding criminals accountable for unpaid Court or Jail debt is a priority for us.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Juvenile Division

- One prosecutor devoted to Children in Need of Assistance (CINA) cases.
- Work closely with the Iowa Department of Health and Human Services.
- Termination of Parental Rights (TPR) in cases where unification is not in the best interest of the child(ren).

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Juvenile Division

- Half prosecutor devoted to Juvenile Delinquency matters.
- Starting our own Juvenile Intervention Program.
 - Look for alternative methods to hold kids accountable for their criminal behavior.
 - Explore why child is making bad decisions and help child and family with community resources so better decisions are made.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Juvenile Division

- Truancy
 - Provide mediation services to schools when school and parents meet to form a plan for the child's school attendance to increase.
 - At 20% absent mark, County Attorney will initiate truancy charges against a parent for violation of the State's Compulsory Education Statute.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Victim Services Division

- Also known as the Victim/Witness Coordinator in most jurisdictions.
- Crown Jewel of our Office.
 - Staffed by two former social workers with DHS and one with the STAR Center in West Des Moines.
 - Both are certified mediators.
 - Piper's handler.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Victim Services Division

- Victim's Rights Act under Iowa Code Section 915.
- Numerous obligations to victims have to be provided by County Attorney.
 1. Dates and times of Trial.
 2. Inform victim of compensation through Crime Victim Compensation Fund.
 3. Victim Impact Statements.
 4. When Defendants are released from custody.
 5. Right to know about plea agreements.

WHAT DOES THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOOK LIKE?

Civil Division

- Advise the Board of Supervisors.
 - Our Assistant County Attorney assigned to this role attends Board Meetings.
 - Represent the County in civil matters.
- Advise Township Trustees
 - Fence Viewers
- Zoning Assistance

FRIEND OR FOE?

- County Attorney is there to protect the County and essentially the Board.
- A good County Attorney will tell you what you need to hear, not necessarily what you want to hear.
- Bad attorneys get you in the headlines.

INDIANOLA

Warren County settles 2-year employment lawsuit

Paige Godden pgodden@registermedia.com

Published 2:30 p.m. CT Oct. 6, 2016



An employment lawsuit against the Warren County Board of Supervisors that began after the county reorganized its workforce more than two years ago is finally settled.

At the advice of Michael Galloway, an attorney for Ahlers & Cooney, the board gave \$125,000 to its insurance provider, ICAP, to settle the outstanding lawsuit. ICAP offered a \$575,000 settlement to the six plaintiffs.

The plaintiffs in the case were former county employees Peg Hutchison, Dan Johnson, Russ Nichols, Shawn Ripperger, Leigh Ann Swain and Shelly Vander Tuig.

The six plaintiffs were part of a group of about a dozen who were laid off in early 2014. The dozen employees were offered severance packages designed so each employee who signed the severance agreement also resigned his or her

