

**SENECA COUNTY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW**  
**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ATTORNEY**

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Seneca County Attorney

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Board of Supervisors  
FROM: Steven J. Getman  
DATE: February 13, 2006  
RE: 2005 Report of Activities

I am pleased to report the following activity by the County Attorney's office in the year 2005:

The following sums were collected and remitted back to the various departments (Total: \$569,959.73):

Recovery of Public Assistance (Medicaid, Medicare, HEAP, etc.)	\$356,397.08
Amount Collected through Tax Foreclosures (with County Treasurer's Office)	\$123,100.00
Planning and Development Loans Collected (with Dept. of Planning and Economic Development)	\$90,462.65

This is a \$47,628.07 increase in collections from last years's total, (\$522,331.66).

It should be noted that the "total county cost" in the 2005 budget as adopted was only \$118,249.00.

The County Attorney's Office processed approximately 3,919 files for the County in the calendar year 2005, including the following:

Institution and prosecution of lawsuits to recover county money (including Tax Foreclosures, Debt Collection, Welfare Recovery, Issuance of Subpoenas, Prosecution of Contempts of Court, other Judgement Collection processes):	1990
Support Collection Cases:	1039
Family Court Prosecutions (including, Child Abuse, Neglect, Juvenile Delinquency, and Willful Non-support of Children):	318
Miscellaneous matters for Board and Departments (including ongoing matters such as Indian Land Claim, Seneca County Correctional Facility, etc., as well as Personnel matters, advise and counsel to Board members and department heads, etc):	141
Freedom of Information Law decisions:	95
Contracts Prepared and or Reviewed:	205
Review of "Poor Person" requests for court appointed counsel:	38
Administrative Hearings:	32
Claims Against Estates:	47
Mortgages Taken:	8
Defense of Civil Claims Against the County (Notices of Claims and Lawsuits):	6

A more detailed breakdown of the year's statistics is annexed hereto.

By law, the County Attorney is the legal advisor to the Board Of Supervisors and every officer whose compensation is paid from county funds in all matters involving an official act of a civil nature. The County Attorney is initially responsible for the prosecution and defense of all civil actions and proceedings brought by or against the county, the board of supervisors and any officer whose compensation is paid from county funds for any official act, except as otherwise provided by law.

The County Attorney is also responsible for the origination, presentment and prosecution of all Child Abuse, Neglect, Juvenile Delinquency and Person In Need of Supervision petitions in Family Court.

The County Attorney also represents the Commissioner of Human Services and perform the duties of a "Social Services Attorney" or "Welfare Attorney," required under Section 66 of the Social Services Law of the State of New York and any other applicable statute.

The County Attorney's office staff current consists of County Attorney Steven Getman, Deputy County Attorney Frank Fisher, Confidential Secretary Barbara Carr, Clerk-Typist Carol Cunningham and Paralegal Carmina Russo.

The staff of the office looks forward to its continuing efforts on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, the employees, citizens and taxpayers of Seneca County.

If you have any questions, or need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for your courtesy and kindness in this matter.