

# McHenry County State's Attorney (Dept. 45)

**Mission Statement:** *Representing the People of the State of Illinois, the McHenry County State's Attorney's Office is charged with the duty to prosecute all crimes and represent the County in litigation, act as legal counsel to the County Board, Elected and Appointed Officials and all County Departments.*

**Department Created By:** *Illinois State Statute (55 ILCS 5/) Counties Code.*

**Classification:** Judicial

**Background:** The McHenry County State's Attorney's Office is dedicated to protecting the rights and ensuring the safety of the citizens of McHenry County and supporting the functions of county government. To that end, the State's Attorney's office serves as prosecutor of any person or persons charged with violating the criminal statutes, traffic laws, or conservation laws of the State of Illinois. We support the building of partnerships with law enforcement and the community in an effort to achieve justice, protect crime victims, hold the guilty accountable and deter crime.

## Functions: MANDATED BY STATE STATUTE

- **Prosecution:** To commence and prosecute all actions, suits, indictments and prosecutions, civil and criminal, in the circuit court for his/her county, in which the people of the state or county may be concerned.
- **Recovery of Debt:** To prosecute all forfeited bonds and all actions and proceedings for the recovery of debts, revenues, moneys, fines, penalties and forfeitures accruing to the State or the county, or to any school district or road district in this county.
- **County Department Representation:** To commence and prosecute all actions and proceedings brought by any county officer in his/her official capacity.
- **County Defense:** To defend all actions and proceedings brought against the county, or against any county or state officer, in his/her official capacity, within this county
- **Victim Witness:** Provides guidance and support to victims and victim's families during the prosecution of a crime that was committed.

## 2024 Highlights

**In addition to daily functions, our SAO Civil Division has accomplished several exceptional duties during this fiscal year including:**

- The Civil Division formulated a litigation team to focus on the defense of litigation cases in McHenry County. In 2024, the Civil Division handled approximately 91 litigation cases. However, in 2024, they are projected to handle approximately 110 cases.
- Since FY17, the SAO's Civil ASA's have litigated and negotiated McHenry County Labor Law matters at **no cost** to county taxpayers, saving several million dollars in outside counsel fees.
- From January 2024, the Civil Division has handled 66 open litigation files. Twenty-three (23) of those cases have been successfully closed out at **no cost** to the County.

**In addition to daily functions, our SAO Criminal Division has accomplished several exceptional outcomes during this fiscal year including:**

- Successfully prosecuted two DCFS employees charged with official misconduct and child endangerment. The prosecution, spearheaded by McHenry Co. State's Attorney Patrick Kenneally, 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Randi Freese and Special Prosecution Chief Ashley Romito, resulted in a conviction against Carlos Acosta for his role in the child endangerment surrounding the murder of Andrew Freund, Jr.
- Successfully prosecuted several offenders for distributing controlled substances in our community, including those who have committed drug-induced homicides. Continued to strengthen our partnerships with the local, state and federal agencies investigating drug offenses, which has resulted in a continuing decrease of lethal drugs in our community and led to one of the lowest overdose numbers in the state. Evidenced by the convictions we have secured for narcotics related offenses, and our pending cases, such as the recent arrests of two Cook County offenders that were in possession of 17 kilos of cocaine and fentanyl within McHenry County, and charging eleven additional drug-induced homicides since the last reported period.
- Continued to expand the experience and effectiveness of the office by hiring several career and former prosecutors in all divisions, in addition to adding several attorneys committed to the mission and values of the office. Our first-class training program coupled with career prosecutors trying challenging cases with newer assistants has resulted in favorable outcomes for the victims of crimes and the community at large.
- Required cannabis dispensaries in McHenry County to warn customers through in-store signage of the mental health dangers associated with cannabis use. Further required dispensaries to eliminate all advertisements claiming that cannabis use has medical benefits. McHenry County is the first and only county in Illinois to require cannabis dispensaries to add such warnings.

## 2025 Goals

**The Civil Division strives to continue to provide professional, efficient and timely advice to the county elected officials and department heads. We wish to enable the County to run as efficiently as possible, while providing independent, non-partisan legal advice. In furtherance of these goals, we specifically intend to accomplish the following:**

- Minimize the total monies paid to outside counsel for labor, employment, worker's compensation, grievance and planning & development matters.
- Continue to work with the McHenry County Division of Transportation regarding the possible acquisition of a new salt dome site.
- Build a stronger bond and relationship with all elected officials and department heads, as well as provide training as requested by County HR and County Administration for new and existing elected officials and department heads.

**The Criminal Division has several goals heading into 2025. As always, our primary goal is to seek justice for the citizens of McHenry County through aggressive prosecution of the most serious crimes which present safety concerns for the community. Additional goals for the next fiscal year include:**

- Maintain a culture of trust and open communication between the residents and businesses of McHenry County and the State's Attorney's Office to increase the public's understanding of the office's duties and activities, improve public safety, and provide a healthy, welcoming county to live in. Core to our mission is obtaining justice for victims and balancing their needs and interests and the severity of the crime against a just outcome for those charged with crimes.
- Continue to thoroughly investigate and prosecute crimes against children. Expand the Crimes Against Children Taskforce to additional law enforcement agencies within the county. Focus additional resources on the Human Trafficking Taskforce to combat the trafficking of minors and the vulnerable into the sex trade and forced labor.
- Create safer and healthier communities in McHenry County using prosecutorial resources strategically and appropriately, by both aggressively prosecuting the most serious threats to McHenry County while providing effective alternatives to incarceration of non-violent offenders. This outlook has resulted in numerous lengthy prison sentences for the most severe cases, while our office continues to collaborate with all stakeholders towards successful and meaningful rehabilitation of first-time offenders by way of a robust deferred prosecution program.

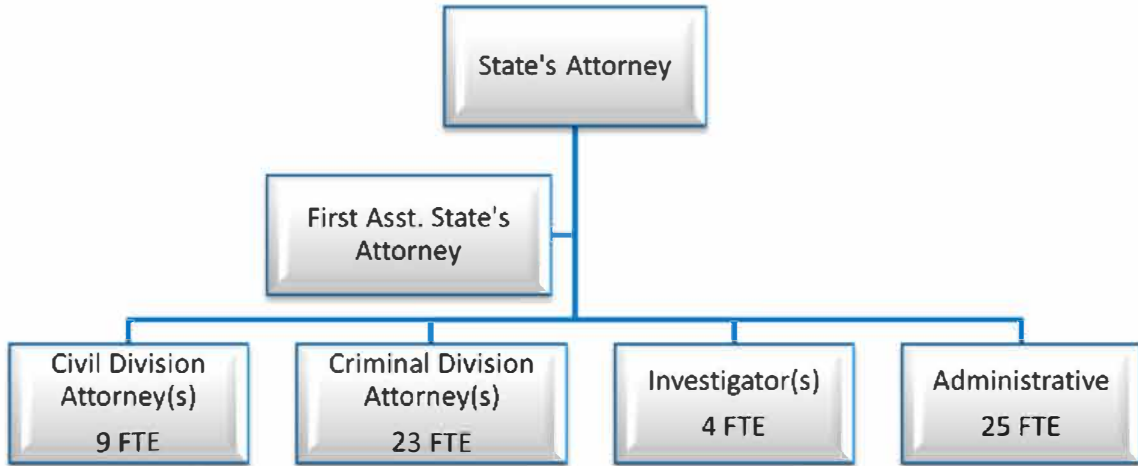
## Performance Measures

Performance Indicators:	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2024 Mid-Year	2025 Projected
New Civil Division assignments opened	238	260	126	260
Legal Opinions issued for County Departments	61	60	17	60
FOIA Requests responded to	57	55	54	90
County Contracts reviewed	53	70	26	60
Civil Litigation Cases	91	95	54	95
County Ordinance Violations	396	460	166	400
Felony Adult Offenders charged	1219	1200	620	1200
Misdemeanor Adult Offenders charged	1376	1230	614	1230
Juvenile Offenders under 18 charged	139	140	72	140
Abuse and Neglect Petitions filed	123	140	77	130
Jury Trials	16	26	13	25
Forfeitures Filed	41	55	38	55
Deferred Prosecution Offenders	204	198	98	200
CAC Interviews	262	285	152	285

## Full Time Equivalent History

Job Title	2022-23 FTE	2023-24 FTE	2024-25 FTE
State's Attorney	1.00	1.00	1.00
First Assistant State's Attorney	1.00	1.00	1.00
Deputy Chief	0.50	1.00	1.00
Division Chief	4.00	3.00	3.00
Lead Supervisor State's Attorney	2.00	3.00	3.00
Principal State's Attorney	5.50	5.00	5.00
Senior State's Attorney	5.00	4.00	4.00
Senior State's Attorney/Felony 2nd Chair	-	2.00	2.00
Supervisor State's Attorney	4.00	5.00	5.00
Assistant State's Attorney	9.00	9.00	9.00
Chief Investigator	0.50	0.50	0.50
Investigator	3.50	3.50	3.50
Administrative Specialist/Front Desk	2.00	2.00	2.00
Community Information Officer	1.00	1.00	1.00
Legal Administrative Specialist	15.00	14.00	13.00
Legal Administrative Supervisor	3.00	3.00	3.00
Legal Technology Andministrative Specialist	-	-	1.00
Legal Technology Supervisor	-	1.00	1.00
Operations Manager	1.00	1.00	1.00
Victim/Witness Coordinator	2.00	3.00	3.00
<b>Total Dept 45 - State's Attorney's Office</b>	<b>60.00</b>	<b>63.00</b>	<b>63.00</b>

# Organizational Chart



**County of McHenry**  
**2025 Proposed Budget**  
**45 - State's Attorney**

Category	FY2022 Actual	FY2023 Actual	FY2024 Appropriated	FY2024 Actual (YTD)	FY2025 Budgeted
<i>General Fund</i>					
80 - Fees & Charges for Service Total	126,392	127,034	130,500	94,092	145,000
94 - Governmental Total	196,620	197,467	170,843	110,303	229,885
<b>General Fund Revenue Total</b>	<b>323,011</b>	<b>324,501</b>	<b>301,343</b>	<b>204,395</b>	<b>374,885</b>
30 - Personnel Total	3,325,817	3,823,274	3,568,120	2,659,586	4,242,932
40 - Contractual Total	152,415	149,977	170,800	131,657	180,350
50 - Commodities Total	41,905	54,258	44,550	26,969	47,000
<b>General Fund Expense Total</b>	<b>3,520,137</b>	<b>4,027,509</b>	<b>3,783,470</b>	<b>2,818,211</b>	<b>4,470,282</b>
<i>Ill Criminal Justice Auth Fund</i>					
94 - Governmental Total	98,417	73,885	98,417	73,286	98,417
95 - Interest Earnings Total	983	2,578	-	1,979	-
<b>Ill Criminal Justice Auth Fund Revenue Total</b>	<b>99,400</b>	<b>76,463</b>	<b>98,417</b>	<b>75,265</b>	<b>98,417</b>
30 - Personnel Total	98,417	98,417	98,417	-	98,417
<b>Ill Criminal Justice Auth Fund Expense Total</b>	<b>98,417</b>	<b>98,417</b>	<b>98,417</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>98,417</b>
<i>State's Attorney Records Auto Fund</i>					
80 - Fees & Charges for Service Total	6,766	6,471	8,000	3,808	7,000
91 - Utilization of Fund Balance Total	-	-	38,500	-	-
95 - Interest Earnings Total	881	3,383	3,500	2,104	4,500
<b>State's Attorney Records Auto Fund Revenue Total</b>	<b>7,647</b>	<b>9,854</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>5,913</b>	<b>11,500</b>
40 - Contractual Total	-	-	25,000	-	2,550
50 - Commodities Total	-	8,882	25,000	-	5,950
68 - Fund Balance Enhancement Total	-	-	-	-	3,000
<b>State's Attorney Records Auto Fund Expense Total</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>8,882</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>11,500</b>

**To View Interactive Budget (both Financial and Non Financial Information)**

<https://mchenrycountyil.openbook.questica.com/#/spotlight/efe8db06-7ac6-45bc-9f0f-845fa5d1f6d0>