

STATE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE REPORT

Fiscal Year 2020/2021

CHRISTOPHER J. CASO, CITY ATTORNEY

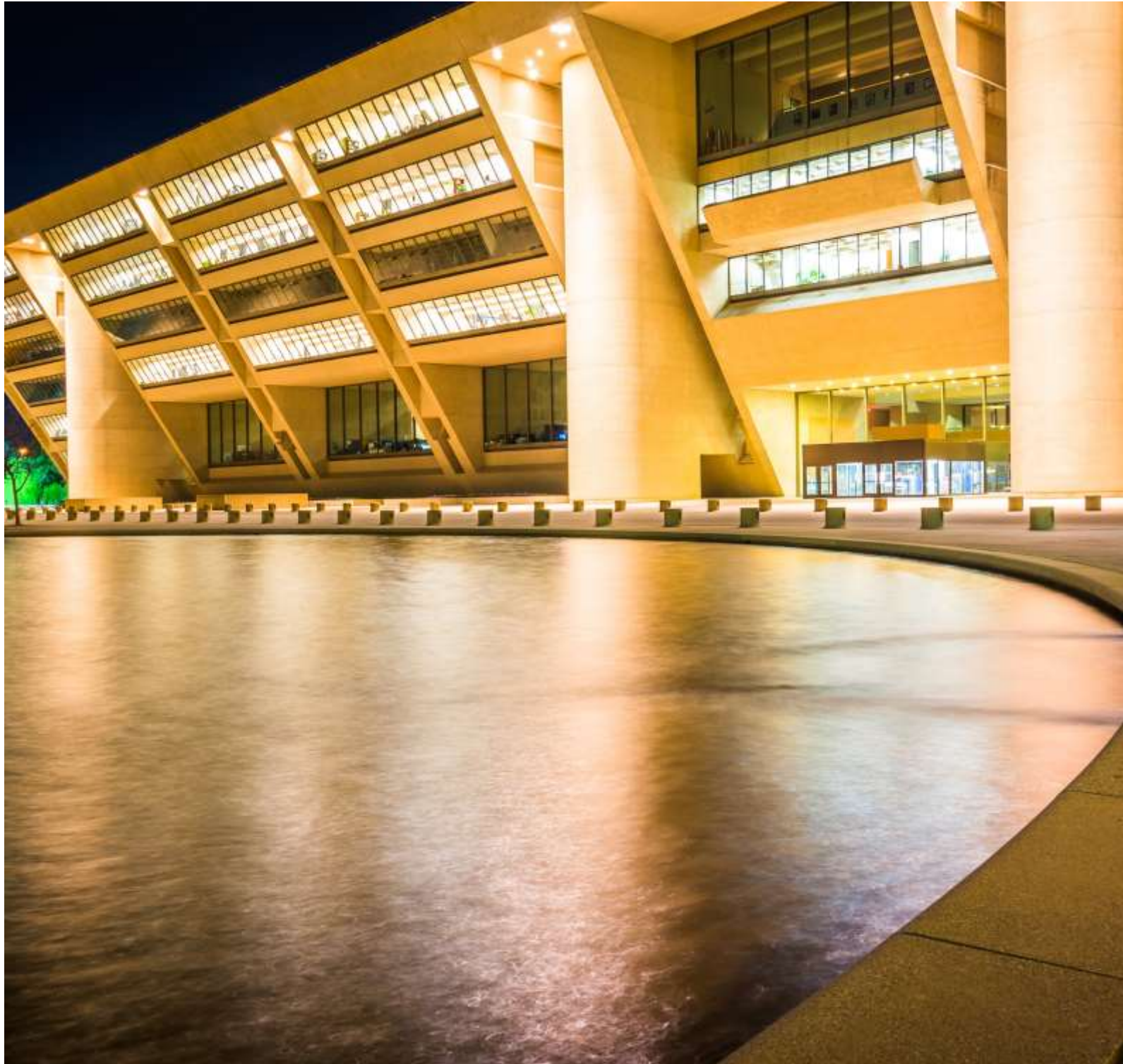


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MESSAGE FROM THE CITY ATTORNEY



I am pleased to provide our first ever State of the City Attorney's Office Report for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 (October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2021). This report will provide Council, staff, residents, businesses, and taxpayers a view of the work that the City Attorney's Office performs on the City's behalf. This report details the work of our office, including, financial trends, litigation results, and special initiatives. While we were dealing with the effects of COVID-19 during the last fiscal year, the members of the City Attorney's Office worked tirelessly to provide the highest quality and timely legal services to the City. We continue to remain dedicated to our mission, doing our part to make the City of Dallas a sustainable, safe, and beautiful place to live and work. We look forward to providing annual reports moving forward so that everyone can review the work that our office performs each year.

Christopher J. Caso
City Attorney

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Dallas City Attorney's Office ("CAO") plays an integral and often behind-the-scenes role in city government. Our mission is to provide the highest quality legal services to the City of Dallas in the most ethical, timely, efficient, and cost-effective manner. To accomplish our mission, the CAO is currently organized into four key areas.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY



Community Courts provides restorative justice and enhanced services for individuals who need assistance, while Community Prosecution enhances the quality of life for Dallas residents by focusing on proactive, community-oriented solutions to code issues throughout the city.

GENERAL COUNSEL



Our office drafts and reviews hundreds of contracts, ordinances, and resolutions each year. Daily, we provide legal advice and counsel to city elected officials, the city manager, city departments, and boards and commissions regarding Dallas' strategic and progressive policies, laws, agreements, programs, projects, and services.

LITIGATION



Our office handles hundreds of lawsuits and other civil matters involving the city every year. Additionally, our office handles over 100,000 cases involving violations of city ordinances and state law that are filed annually in municipal court.

INSPECTOR GENERAL



The City Council recently created the Inspector General Division of the City Attorney's Office. This division is a new key area of the City Attorney's Office, and we look forward to establishing it and ensuring that city officials, staff, and persons doing business with the city perform in the most ethical manner.

OFFICE PROFILE

EXECUTIVE TEAM

The Executive Team provides legal, executive, and administrative support for our office. The team includes the City Attorney, the First Assistant City Attorney/Chief of General Counsel, the Chief of Litigation, the Managing Attorney/Deputy Chief of Litigation, the Legal Office Manager, the Executive Assistant to the City Attorney, and the Executive Assistant to the First Assistant City Attorney and Managing Attorney.

GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

The General Counsel Division provides legal services that address the full spectrum of municipal affairs and transactions. The General Counsel Division drafts ordinances and resolutions; negotiates complex contracts, including information technology, utility, aviation, and franchise agreements; provides legal advice to the City Council and more than fifty city departments on housing and economic development, sanitation, aviation, water utilities, and procurement; finance, bonds, tax, budget, retirement, benefits, elections, land use, building codes, ethics and conflicts of interest, transportation, construction, as well as police, fire, and emergency services policies, procedures, and practices; represents the City Council, city council committees, and a variety of boards and commissions, including city plan commission, the park and recreation board, the civil service board, and the board of adjustment. The General Counsel Division is organized into five practice areas, and their practice areas and responsibilities are based on the functions of the city and City Council policy priorities.

LITIGATION DIVISION

The Litigation Division defends the city against claims and lawsuits in a variety of legal matters related to the day-to-day operations of the city. The Litigation Division manages all phases of litigation from investigations, pretrial, trial, settlement, and appeal processes. The Litigation Division handles a wide range of issues involving appeals, city code violations, environmental regulations, constitutional issues, personal injury, property damage, employment legal issues, contract disputes, real estate, zoning, and land use. The division also pursues lawsuits against businesses and individuals for violations that affect the quality of life of the residents in our city as well as seeking to recover funds owed to the city. The Litigation Division is divided into seven sections that specialize in various practice areas.

INSPECTOR GENERAL DIVISION

The Inspector General Division in the City Attorney's Office serves as an independent investigative authority regarding ethics and official misconduct. The Inspector General seeks out and initiates investigations into misconduct involving ethics, fraud, waste, abuse, and corruption of city officials, city employees, and persons doing business with the city.

COMMUNITY ADVOCACY

COMMUNITY COURTS SECTION

The Community Courts Section focuses on rehabilitating and assisting individuals who have received tickets while at the same time helping to restore the community. Defendants are provided services they might need, such as housing, clothing, mental health, and substance abuse services. Defendants may be required to perform community service and can also be required to attend rehabilitative and educational programs. In 2008, the South Dallas Community Court was one of only three sites nationwide to be selected by the U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Justice Assistance to serve as a National Mentor Court for community courts across the world. As a mentor court, the South Dallas Community Court supports the Center for Court Innovation in advancing the community court model and hosts site visits from jurisdictions that are seeking to start or enhance a community court. In 2018, the South Dallas Community Court, after a competitive selection process, was again designated as a National Mentor Court.

COMMUNITY PROSECUTION SECTION

Community prosecutors are assigned and officed at City Hall and in neighborhoods throughout the city, focusing on improving the quality of life for all residents. Working with code officers, fire inspectors, police detectives, and neighborhood stakeholders, the community prosecutors identify properties that negatively impact the neighborhood and provide proactive solutions that best serve the community. Ensuring compliance with the city's minimum housing standards, zoning ordinances, and state law improves and strengthens neighborhoods, and when property owners fail to comply, after working with them to resolve state law or code issues, the section files lawsuits in municipal and district court seeking orders requiring property owners to repair or correct violations on their properties and/or take reasonable steps to abate crime occurring at their properties. The section is also responsible for the court docket relating to urban rehabilitation cases, gambling cases, protests under the Texas Alcohol and Beverage Code, and hearings before the Permit and License Appeal Board.

ADMINISTRATION SECTION

The Administration Section is comprised of staff who assist the Legal Office Manager with managing the day-to-day activities and infrastructure of the office that are in direct support of the city attorney. The team provides personnel and financial management, risk and safety management, record retention and digital and physical files support, facilities support, data collection and analytics, information technology support and activities, grant compliance activities, accounts payable and receivable activities, agenda and contract coordination and management, and other general office support activities.

SECTIONS UNDER THE GENERAL COUNSEL AND LITIGATION DIVISIONS

GENERAL COUNSEL DIVISION

D/FW AIRPORT LEGAL LIAISON SECTION

Dallas and Fort Worth jointly own the Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport and both City Attorney's Offices provide legal advice and representation to the D/FW Airport Board with three attorneys from Dallas and two attorneys from Fort Worth officed at D/FW Airport, for which the cities are reimbursed from airport revenues. The D/FW Airport Legal Liaison provides legal advice and counsel on federal regulatory matters, legal relationships with user airlines, commercial real estate, environmental law, procurement, and construction contracting, ground transportation regulation and labor law, and sue and defend lawsuits relating to the airport.

ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SECTION

Provides legal advice and counsel to the city council and a variety of city departments on financing and city incentives, fair housing and compliance, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) obligations for economic development programs and incentives, paving assessments, and open records matters. The Economic and Community Development Section drafts development agreements, tax abatement agreements, grants and loans, including security instruments, management and operating agreements, and public service contracts; drafts agreements related to housing opportunities for persons with AIDS (HOPWA), community development block grants (CDBG), home investment partnership program (HOME), home improvement and preservation program (HIPP), as well as recent Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding; reviews requests for special districts, including tax increment financing (TIFs) districts, public improvement districts (PIDs), municipal management districts (MMDs), enterprise zones, and neighborhood empowerment zones (NEZs); drafts contracts for cultural affairs and convention and event services, including leases, and long term operating and management contracts; drafts requests for Attorney General decisions for non-Dallas Police Department (DPD) open records requests regarding whether information may or must be withheld; assists the Litigation Division with open records litigation; and serves as the general counsel for the Housing Finance Corporation, arts and culture advisory commission, senior affairs commission, citizen homelessness commission, Martin Luther King board, South Dallas/Fair Park opportunity board (SDFPOB), Dallas Housing Acquisition and Development Corporation (HADC), and advises TIF boards on legal issues.

GOVERNMENT SERVICES SECTION

Provides ongoing legal advice and counsel to the City Council and city departments on various legal issues, including, procurement, emergency management, utility regulations and franchising issues, right-of-way management issues, small cell and distributed antenna systems in the public right-of-way, sanitation, aviation, technology and cybersecurity, credit processing services, benefits, deferred compensation, and water utilities. The Government Services Section drafts and negotiates complex contracts for engineering services, consultant services, software, staffing, radio advertising for the city's radio station, the public library system, municipal courts, technology and cybersecurity, Dallas Water Utilities, waste hauling, garbage and recycling related materials,

professional services, risk management, interlocal agreements, and many other contracts relating to government services; drafts ordinances related to solid waste franchises; and serves as general counsel to the city's deferred compensation committee regarding administration of the Deferred Compensation Program.

MUNICIPAL REGULATORY SECTION

Provides legal advice and counsel to the City Council, city manager, city secretary, city auditor, and city departments on various legal issues, including zoning, land use, comprehensive plan amendments, annexation, boundary adjustments, Open Meetings Act, City Council Rules of Procedure, flood plain regulations, thoroughfare amendments, street and bridge name changes, subdivision and sign regulations, gas drilling regulations, building code issues, Alcoholic Beverage Code matters, elections, including appointment of election and presiding central counting station judges, tax code, budget, ethics, Roberts Rules of Order, and board and commission conflicts. The Municipal Regulatory Section also drafts ordinances and code amendments for all three volumes of the city code, resolutions, bylaws, and numerous legal and advisory opinions for the City Council, city departments, and board and commission members; serves as general counsel to numerous boards and commissions, including the building inspection and advisory board, board of adjustment, city plan commission, civil service board, community police oversight board, landmark commission; and permit, license, and appeal board, and city council committees.

POLICE LEGAL LIAISON SECTION

Provides legal advice and counsel to the Dallas Police Department (DPD) and the Public Safety Committee on various legal issues, including the daily operations, legislative updates, personnel, Public Information Act, expunction and non-disclosure law, and the U.S. and Texas Constitutions, including search and seizure issues. The Police Legal Liaison Section researches and drafts legal opinions related to DPD operations; instructs DPD recruits at the police academy on the criminal justice system, U.S. and Texas Constitutions, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, Texas Penal Code, arrest, search and seizure, and force options law; drafts requests for letter rulings from the Attorney General on exempted open record requests; attends monthly property magistrate hearings; reviews petitions for expunction and non-disclosure; reviews DPD and Dallas Fire Rescue third party discover requests (subpoenas) and drafts motions objecting to disclosure of confidential information; review seizure forms and draft motions and orders to transfer seized property to the appropriate federal agency; and attend DPD chief's weekly command staff meetings to advise command staff on legal issues related to operations or projects presented during weekly meetings; and provides 24-hour emergency legal assistance to DPD officers.

REAL ESTATE AND CONSTRUCTION SECTION

Provides legal advice and counsel to the City Council and a variety of city departments on real estate and construction matters, park and recreation, including acquisitions, sale of surplus property, land exchanges, abandonments, close and vacate transactions, leases, relocations, resale of tax strike-offs, and conveyance instruments, including easements. The Real Estate and Construction Section drafts abandonments and license ordinances, conveyance instruments, including easements related to streets, water, wastewater, drainage, sidewalk, utilities, floodways, covenant agreements and backflow releases, leases, lease amendments, multiple use agreements, concession and use agreements, rights of entry, encroachment agreements, development agreements with non-profit groups for development, operation and maintenance of park facilities,

management and maintenance agreements, trail agreements, construction contracts related to city infrastructure, public buildings and facilities, transportation, engineering, and architects, city landscaping, and a variety of other contracts related to real estate, construction and city assets. The Real Estate and Construction Section also advises the Dallas convention center hotel development corporation/omni hotel board, the city's local government corporation, the park and recreation department board, and the Trinity River Local Government Corporation.

LITIGATION DIVISION

APPELLATE SECTION

Handling appeals is a distinct form of advocacy. The section considers legal issues arising out of the challenge to an order or judgment of a state or federal court. The section reviews the records of court proceedings, prepares written briefs, and argues or assists other sections in preparing for argument before the appellate courts. The section also assists the other litigation section in ensuring that the case is in the best posture should an appeal be filed. The section also reviews amicus curiae briefs when requested on items that concern or impact the city.

BANKRUPTCY AND COLLECTIONS SECTION

This section handles collection and bankruptcy matters involving the city as a creditor. The section pursues delinquent accounts for Dallas Water Utilities, convention center, housing and neighborhood revitalization department, real estate, and other city departments. The section also handles lien payoff requests, subrogation matters, and seeks to collect on judgments the city has obtained. The section is involved with ad valorem tax matters that affect the city, and it handles various real estate foreclosure matters.

EMPLOYMENT SECTION

This section handles employment-related legal matters. The section represents city departments in internal administrative disciplinary appeals and grievances before the city manager, administrative law judges, the civil service board, and the park board. In addition, the section represents the city in employment-related claims and in litigation filed against the city and individual defendants in federal and state court, including claims alleging constitutional violations, claims of discrimination and/or retaliation under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Texas Labor Code, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Texas Whistleblower Act, and other employment-based claims. The section further represents the city and departments in administrative hearings in connection with state agencies, such as unemployment compensation appeals before the Texas Workforce Commission and F-5 hearings before the State Office of Administrative Hearings. In addition to the above, the section advises the human resources department and other city departments, executives, and leaders on employment issues, reviews internal procedures, administrative directives, and personnel rules changes, and assists the human resources department with employment-related investigations.

GENERAL LITIGATION SECTION

City government in Dallas is a large, diverse, and complex operation. The mission of the General Litigation Section is to represent the city and its officials and employees on a wide range of claims and lawsuits, which can arise from those operations, including: challenges to city ordinances and policies, federal and state constitutional claims, contract disputes, public utility regulation, disputes arising from public works projects, eminent domain, environmental issues, land use and zoning disputes, lease disputes, and disputes involving title, easements and other property interests. The scope of representation is equally wide: embracing everything from defending, on short notice, against demands for temporary restraining orders, through discovery and trial, to briefing and argument in the state and federal appellate courts.

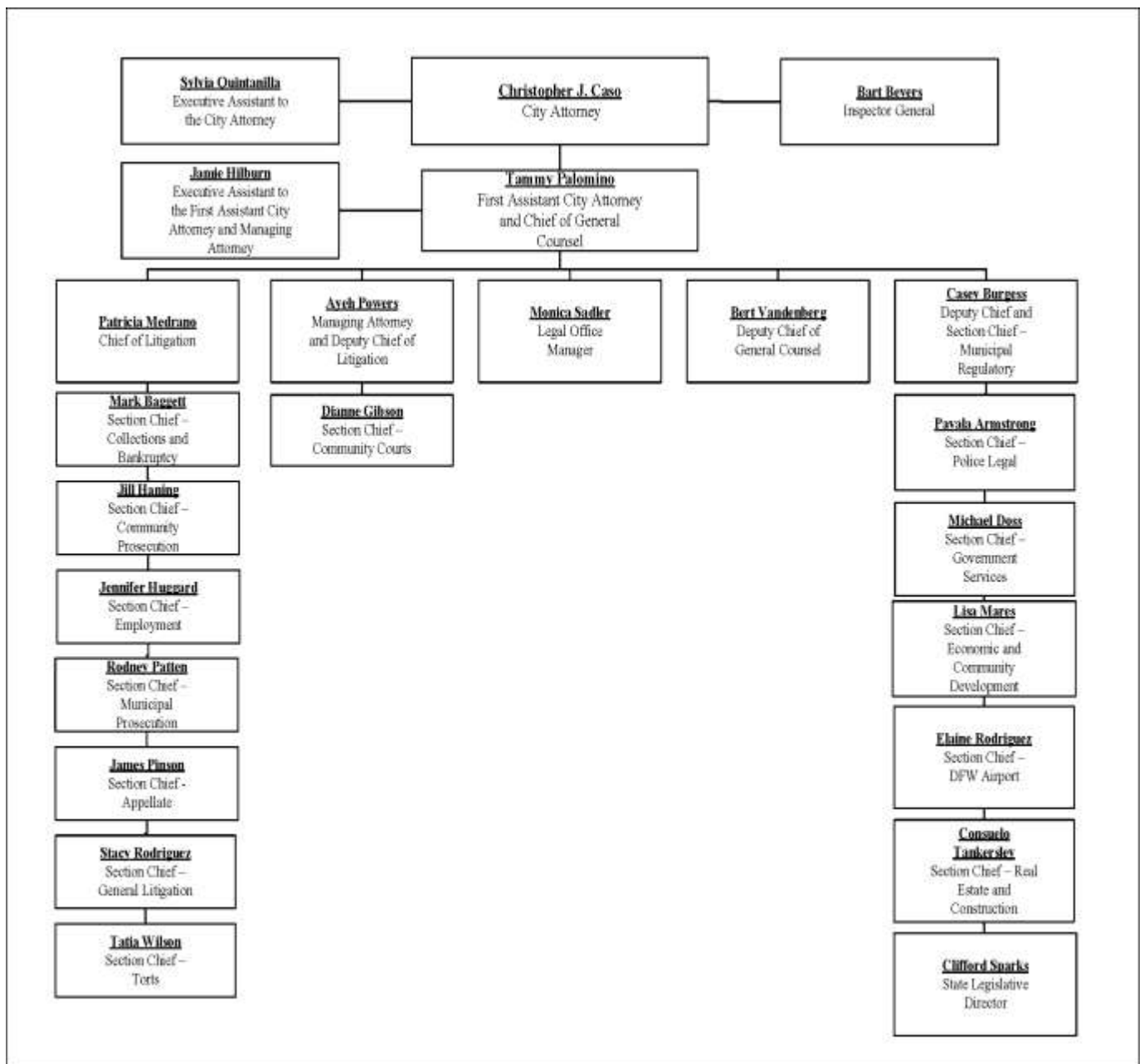
MUNICIPAL PROSECUTION SECTION

This section handles the criminal prosecution of Class C misdemeanors and violations of municipal ordinances in the Dallas Municipal Court. Class C misdemeanors include traffic violations, assault, family violence assault, disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and theft, among others. The Dallas Municipal Court is a court of record. Trials are held before a six-person jury or before the court. The section also handles civil proceedings which consist of administrative adjudications of housing and premises violations in the Hearing Officer's Court, dangerous dog appeals, animal control issues, parking appeals, and bond forfeitures.

TORTS SECTION

The Torts Section defends the city and its employees in personal injury and property damage lawsuits, provides advice to the office of risk management in the handling of complex claims, and investigates and makes recommendations on death claims filed against the city. The section also handles claims and defends lawsuits involving allegations of federal constitutional and civil rights violations, and state-law torts allegedly committed by Dallas police officers or other city employees. The section handles lawsuit from initial service of process on the city or employees through the final disposition, including appeal.

ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



OFFICE DIVERSITY AND STRUCTURE

The CAO values diversity in all areas, including age, gender, race, sexual orientation, disability status, education, and talent. We recognize the power of diversity to improve and inform our advice and enhance our public service to Dallas residents.

Our office has consistently improved its diversity over the last few fiscal years. FY20-21 has been one of our most successful years to date. Our office reduced the use of outside counsel, increased the amount of dollars secured for city use, and enhanced community engagement activities. Along with a dedicated staff, we attribute our success to our employees who have the dedication and heart for public service as well as the unique backgrounds, perspectives, and talent to bring suggestions, initiatives, and approaches to the table which ultimately helps our office provide the best legal service to the city and its residents.

The FY20-21 budget comprised of 165 positions (14 of which are funded through grants). These positions included:

- 97 attorneys: City Attorney, one First Assistant City Attorney/Chief of General Counsel, one Chief of Litigation, one Managing Attorney/Deputy Chief of Litigation, two Deputy Chiefs of General Counsel, 12 Section Chiefs, 12 Deputy Chiefs, 39 attorneys in General Counsel and Litigation, 12 Municipal Prosecutors, two Community Court Prosecutors, and 14 Community Prosecutors.
- 68 support staff: one legal office manager, one state legislative director, three executive assistants, 21 paralegals, 10 legal secretaries, three information technology analysts, nine caseworkers/social workers, five community court coordinators, six administrative specialists, one agenda specialist, one community court section chief, one assistant community court manager, two community court supervisors, one grant compliance representative, one outreach specialist, one receptionist and office assistant, and one accounts payable, accounts receivable manager.
- Based on employee disclosures, for the FY20-21 period, our staff included 66% women and 63% people of color, plus a wide range of ages and LGBTQ employees. Our office has approximately 56% people of color and 63% women in leadership roles. Our attorney staff consisted of approximately 51% people of color and 58% women. Our support staff consisted of approximately 81% people of color and 79% women.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

SUMMARY

Our office strives to uphold the utmost standards of fiscal responsibility by providing the highest quality legal service to the city and its residents. Our office's annual budget strategically implements cost-saving measures to minimize the impact on taxpayers while simultaneously addressing the needs of the city in the most effective and efficient manner.

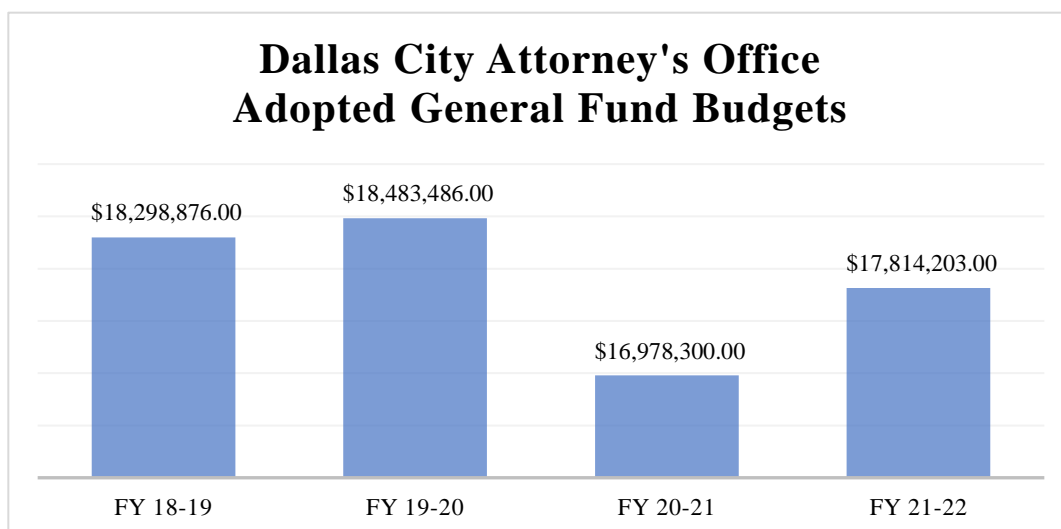
The amount the city pays or recovers to resolve claims and lawsuits, including settlements and judgments varies from year to year depending on the types of cases that are filed against the city, the types of cases the city initiates, and the timing of the resolution of claims and lawsuits.

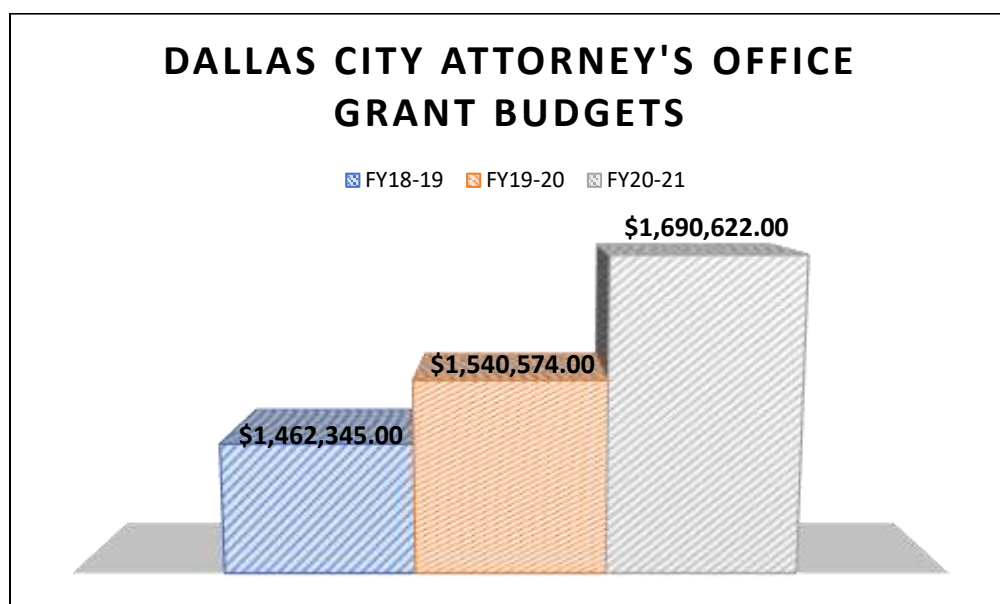
Our office hires outside counsel in very specific situations where a conflict may exist, where specific expertise is required, or when outside counsel is needed for specific matters. As detailed below, the total cost of outside counsel in this past FY was almost \$1M less than the previous FY. The need to hire outside counsel for major and complex litigation significantly increased the city's total outside counsel costs in fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20. In the last two fiscal years, the two cases listed in the outside counsel section accounted for most of the outside counsel costs.

OFFICE BUDGET AND EXPENSES

The CAO budget is comprised of multiple funding sources. The total budget for FY20-21 was **\$18,668,422**. This included approximately **\$1.6M** in annual grants from state and federal agencies. These grants support fourteen full-time staff and activities of the Community Courts and the Community Prosecution Sections. The general fund budget for FY20-21 was a \$1.5M reduction over the FY19-20 budget. Our office identified areas where expenses could be "frozen" to help the city address revenue losses because of COVID-19.

Over the last three fiscal years, the CAO general fund budget has varied from year to year. See the chart on the next page showing our office's **general fund and grant budgets** from year to year.





The increase in grants from FY19-20 to FY20-21 included an additional grant received from the Department of Justice to enhance the existing South Oak Cliff Veterans Treatment Court under the Community Courts Section. Our office continuously researches and applies for grant opportunities that will either enhance our current services or implement a new program to address a need in the community. Between FY18-19 and FY20-21, we have increased our grant dollars by 13% allowing us to serve more individuals and have a greater impact on the quality of life for Dallas residents.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL COSTS

PROTOCOL

While our office is a full-service law firm, like other cities and counties throughout the country, the city attorney hires outside counsel when:

- (1) cases require specialized expertise that our office does not employ, e.g., employee benefits matters, oil and gas matters, small cell deployment, or utility rate proceedings;
- (2) an ethics complaint under Dallas City Code Chapter 12A is filed against a city official or employee.
- (3) the city, a city board or commission, an employee, the city attorney, or another city official has a conflict of interest; or a particular case or matter requires dedication of resources not available in our office at the time.

Our office is currently establishing a Request for Engagement (“RFE”) process to make hiring outside counsel more equitable, competitive, open, and transparent. Our office maintains a database of pre-qualified firms with expertise in a wide range of practice areas.

COSTS OF COMPLEX, MAJOR LITIGATION

The need to hire outside counsel for complex and major litigation significantly increased the city's total outside counsel costs in fiscal years 2018-19 and 2019-20. In these fiscal years, the following two cases accounted for most of the outside counsel costs:

(1) *Trinity East Energy, LLC v. City of Dallas*¹

Trinity East entered into a lease of the oil and gas mineral rights on more than 3,600 acres of city property in northwest Dallas. Trinity East asserted that the city's refusal to grant it the necessary approvals to conduct drilling and production constituted a breach of contract, a taking, fraud, and negligent misrepresentation. The case was tried to a jury on January 27, 2020 – February 6, 2020, and the jury returned a verdict in favor of the plaintiff. The case is currently on appeal.

(2) *Kelvion Walker v. Amy Wilburn*²

Walker, age 19, alleged that he was a passenger in a car that had been stolen in a carjacking and that a Dallas police officer shot him when he raised both of his hand in surrender to her authority. He further alleged that the police officer unreasonably delayed in providing him with emergency medical treatment for his gunshot injuries. Because the city terminated the officer for her conduct, the city hired outside counsel to defend her as this was a conflict of interest for the city. The case was tried to a federal jury, which could not reach a unanimous decision. The case settled for \$610,000.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL COSTS FOR FY 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2020-21

The following table shows the subject-matter and costs that required retention of outside counsel.

Subject Matter	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Ethics Complaints	\$70,538.12	\$32,640.12	\$22,607.50
Employment Issues	\$4,050.00	\$10,447.50	\$6,253.87
Communication Infrastructure	\$166,739.76	\$25,100.76	\$0
Conflict of Interest (board of adjustment hearing)	\$66,711.65	\$0	\$0
Utility rates	\$38,387.63	\$29,347.63	\$15,435.00
Other -	\$22,538.30	\$4,536.50	\$14,455.00

¹ The outside counsel costs may be higher because costs incurred prior to fiscal year 2018-19 are not included in this report.

² The outside counsel costs may be higher for this matter because cost incurred prior to fiscal year 2018-19 are not included in this report.

Litigation - Conflict of Interest (representation for city employees)	\$103,496.83	\$98,018.85	\$52,678.03
Specialized expertise -	\$0	\$0	\$1,817.50
Claim Investigation - Conflict of interest	\$0	\$0	\$1,980
Trinity East lawsuit	\$369,069.65	\$674,703.80	\$9,060
Kelvion Walker lawsuit	\$42,923.37	\$208,589.48	\$0
Pay referendum lawsuits	\$71,642.89	\$0	\$0
Litigation- Employment	\$99,886.78	\$81,258.80	\$39,865.01
Total	\$1,055,984.98	\$1,164,643.24	\$164,151.91

PAYMENTS

TOTALS

Payments include settlements and judgments against the city.

Total payments vary from year to year depending on many factors, including the types and complexity of claims and lawsuits filed against the city and when cases are resolved. Our office works strategically and aggressively to limit financial exposure and to seek fair and just resolution of cases and claims. Our office provides the City Council legal advice and analysis of potential settlements or trials. The City Attorney has up to \$25,000 in settlement authority per claimant. The City Council approves settlements exceeding \$25,000 pursuant to Section 2-84 of the Dallas City Code.

MAJOR PAYMENTS

The tables below (Tables 1-3) show summaries of those cases resulting in payments of more than \$100,000 in FY2018-19, FY2019-2020, and FY2020-2021.

Table 1: Major Payments (more than \$100,000) FY 2018-19

Case	Type	Total Payment
McDonald, Christopher	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging unlawful seizure and excessive force. He had a preexisting brain injury and alleged that he sustained head trauma during his arrest.	\$615,000
Rangel, Juan	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that he sustained injuries caused by a defective pedestrian ramp that was installed as part of a public works pedestrian improvement project near the Kessler Theater area.	\$102,500
Rivas, Guadalupe	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that she sustained injuries, requiring several surgeries, caused by a collision with a city vehicle.	\$170,000

Table 2: Major Payments (more than \$100,000) FY 2019-20*

Case	Type	Total Payment
Abed, Nicole	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that she sustained injuries when a police car struck her as she was driving her motorized wheelchair in a crosswalk.	\$200,000
DeMartino, Keyvn	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that he sustained a brain injury when a sanitation truck collided with his vehicle.	\$200,000
Walker, Kelvion	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that a police officer used excessive force.	\$610,000

Table 3: Major Payments (more than \$100,000) FY 2020-21

Case	Type	Total Payment
Afriyie, Bright Siaw	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging employment retaliation.	\$100,000
Asberry, Alita	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that she suffered injuries in a collision with a police vehicle.	\$110,000
Bass, Terrance, and others	Class action suit alleging that the city did not pay the employees overtime as required by federal law.	\$2,450,000
Fritz, Rodney	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that he suffered injuries in a collision with a police vehicle.	\$225,000
Hinson, Lorris	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that he sustained injuries in a collision with a police vehicle.	\$205,000
Smith, Norris	Plaintiff filed a lawsuit alleging that he suffered injuries in a collision with a sanitation vehicle.	\$155,000

PAYMENTS BY CATEGORY

The tables below track payments in four major categories: police matters, infrastructure, city vehicle accidents and labor/employment (Tables 4 – 7 below).

Table 4: Payouts – Police Matters

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Conduct: Suspect Chase	\$0	\$0	\$0
Alleged Use of Force	\$615,000	\$650,000	\$35,000
Conduct: Alleged Unlawful Arrest	\$0	\$19,000	\$0
Conduct: Non-force	\$0	\$18,900	\$0
Alleged Wrongful Death	\$0	\$0	0
Vehicle Accidents - Bodily Injury	\$404,474	\$418,100	\$830,650
Vehicle Accidents - Property Damage	\$6,379	\$9,150	\$9,560
Personnel/Labor	\$0	\$0	\$0
Other / Admin Hearings	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total Paid	\$1,025,853	\$1,115,150	\$875,210

Table 5: Payouts – Infrastructure

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
City Buildings,Parks, etc.	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,500
Watermains, Sewers & StormDrains	\$0	\$24,000	\$10,000
Sidewalks, Streets, Curbs, etc.	\$107,500	\$36,000	\$13,250
Streets, Signals& Lights	\$0	\$0	\$0
Inverse Condemnation (Eminent Domain)	\$1,829.929	\$713,623	\$703,000
Total Paid	\$1,937,429	\$778,623	\$716,750

Table 6: Payouts – City Vehicle Accidents

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Police	\$410,853.49	\$427,250	\$840,210.25
Dallas-Fire Rescue	\$79,000	\$56,500	\$155,000
Building Services	\$66,000	\$40,944	\$0
Code	\$12,700	\$842	\$0
Parks	\$80,083	\$12,000	\$32,000
Sustainable Development and Construction	\$18,500	\$0	\$10,000
Dallas Animal Services	\$20,000	\$90,000	\$22,000
Sanitation	\$284,082	\$412,378	\$254,984.69
Transportation	\$20,000	\$15,486	\$43,000
Dallas Water Utilities	\$170,000	\$124,800	\$138,720
Public Works	\$65,225	\$71,000	\$76,700
Streets	\$27,000	\$0	\$0
Marshal's Office	\$0	\$0	\$23,500
Total Paid	\$1,253,443.49	\$1,251,200	\$1,596,114.94

Table 7: Payouts – Employment

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Code	\$50,000	\$0	\$2,450,000
Building Services	\$0	\$700	\$0
Housing	\$	\$0	\$46,300
Information & Technology Services	\$	\$0	\$100,000
Transportation	\$0	\$0	\$9,000
Total Paid	\$50,000	\$700	\$2,605,300

APPEALS

The appellate section is responsible for handling many of the appeals relating to lawsuits handled by other sections of the office.

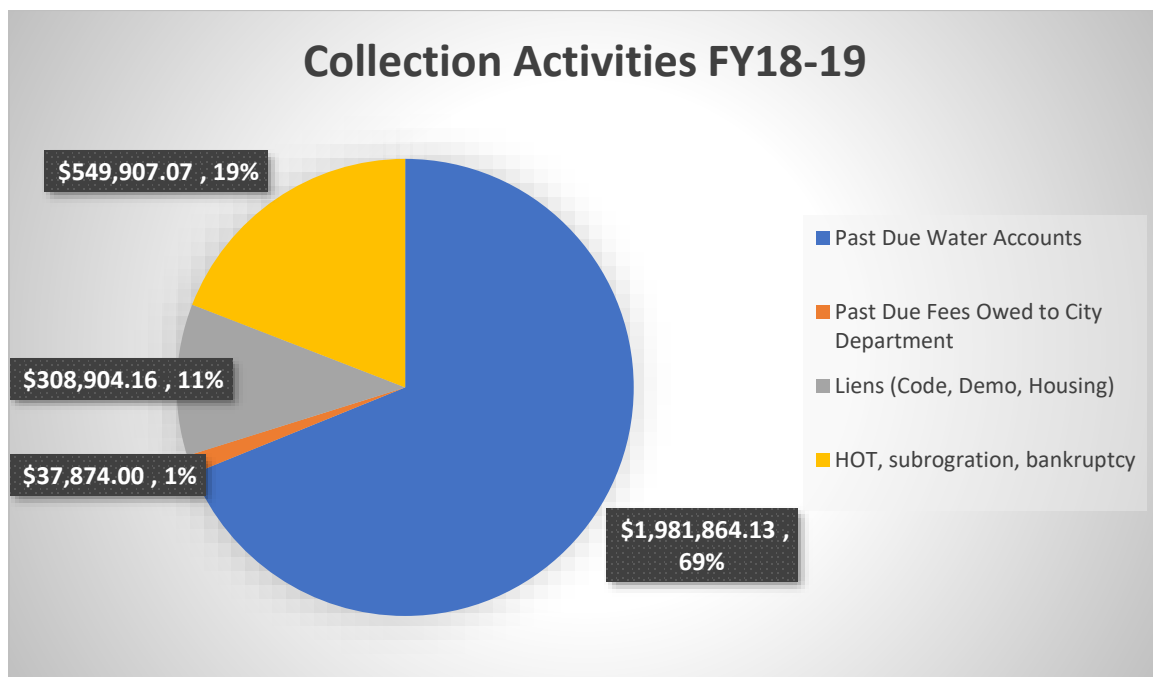
Table 8: Appeals for FY2018-19, FY2019-20, and FY2020-21.

Appeals	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Pending	38	44	39
Disposed	16	22	18
Ruling favorable to the City	10	13	12

DOLLARS COLLECTED BY OUR OFFICE

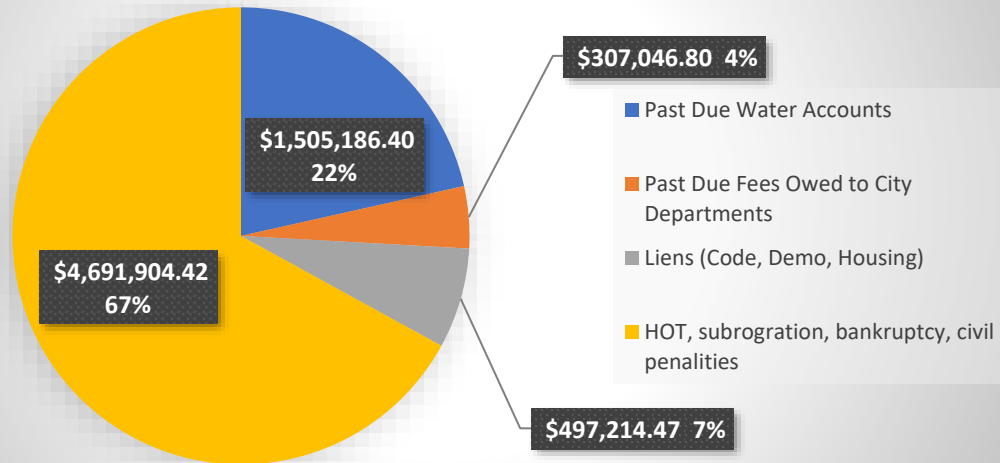
Our office seeks to recover the highest possible dollar amounts to compensate the city for damages it has suffered, recover litigation costs, and enforce the law through fair and just penalties, fines, and costs. These dollars provide funding for vital city services, programs, and implementation of city policies. The CAO also joins class action lawsuits and other litigation to protect Dallas's rights and interests, and our office pursues affirmative litigation to protect civil and constitutional rights, economic interests, enforce city laws, and enhance the quality of life of the community. Our office recovers attorney's fees and costs, civil penalties, payments for damages, settlement payments, and other payments on behalf of the city.

City Attorney-Secured Dollars by Bankruptcy and Collections³

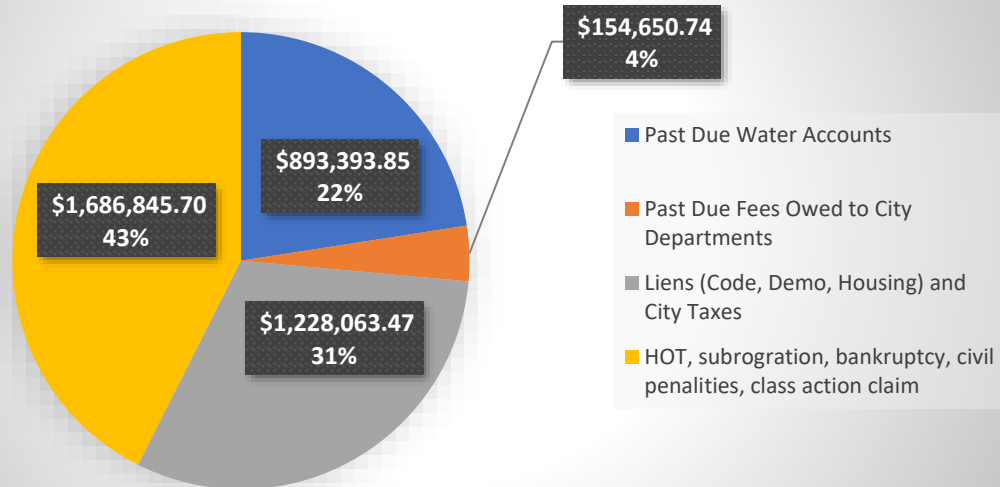


³ Dollars include collections totaling \$5,000 or more

Collection Activities FY19-20



Collection Activities FY20-21



City Attorney -Secured Dollars by Community Prosecution

CP Matters	Totals	Commercial	MF	SF	Vacant	Crime	Code	Amounts Awarded
2018 - 2019	176	139	6	23	1	40	26	\$377,548.28
2019 - 2020	559	334	49	153	12	132	227	\$384,197.83
2020 -2021	549	247	74	180	10	139	267	\$1,666,525.82

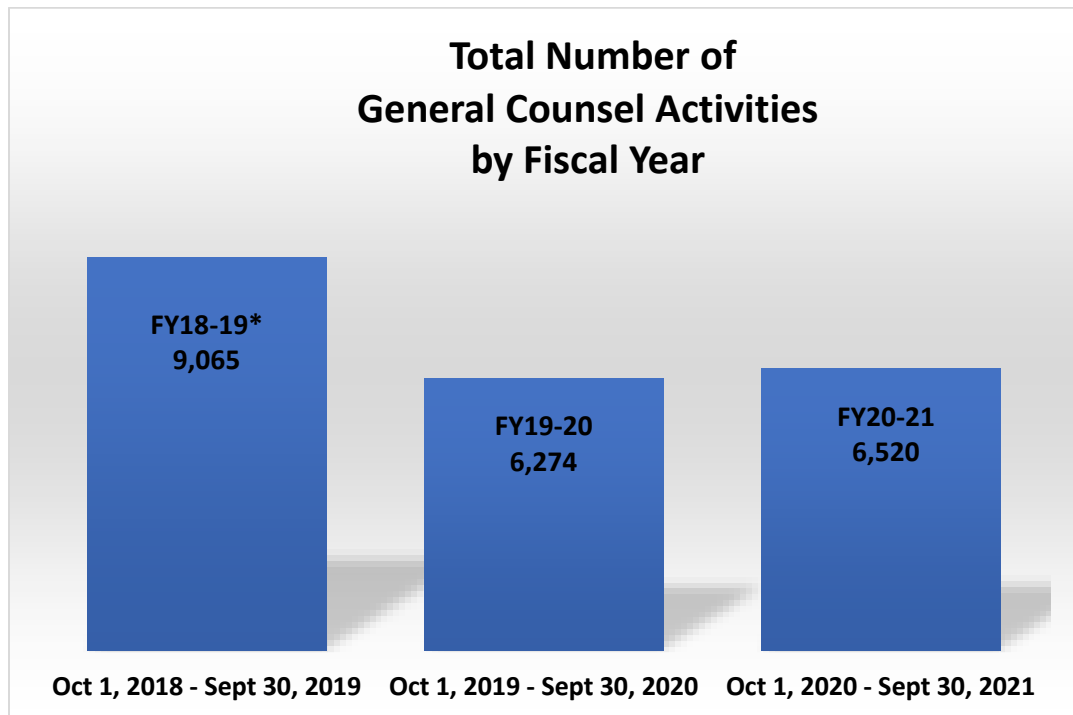
CLAIMS

Our office investigates claims involving fatalities, constitutional violations, breach of contract, land use, demolitions, and employment matters. The Office of Risk Management (ORM) investigates claims involving city vehicle accidents alleging property damage and bodily injury and injuries occurring at city-owned property. ORM forwards claims exceeding its settlement authority to our office for review. ORM has \$5,000 in settlement authority for bodily injury claims and \$10,000 in settlement authority for property damage claims.

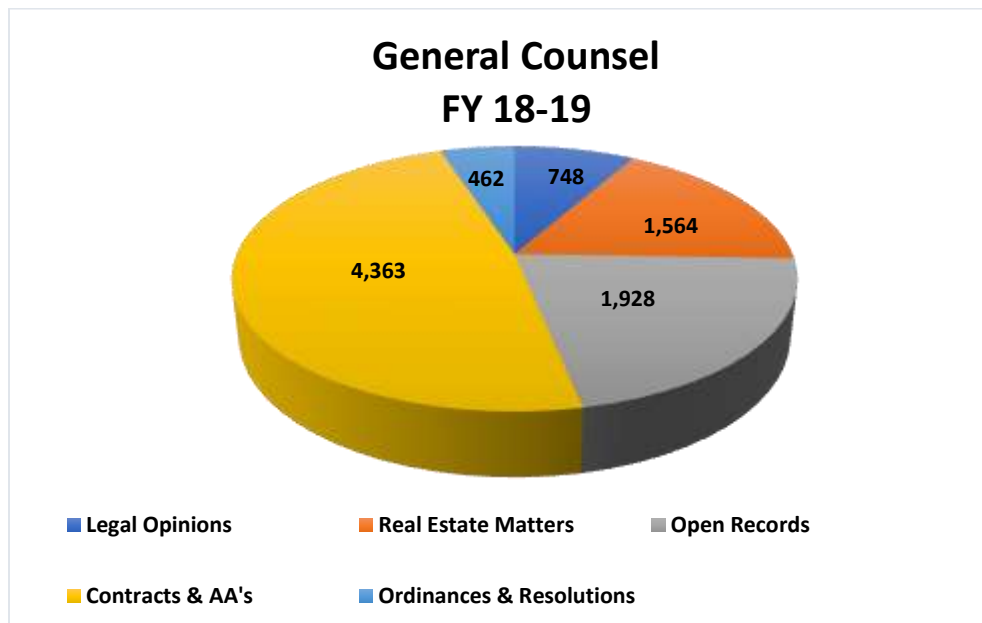
The table below summarizes the claims handled by our office.

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Fatalities	6	7	8
Constitutional Violations (non-police)	2	2	1
Police Matters (non-fatalities)	7	11	17
Breach of Contract	0	1	0
Employment Matters	0	6	10
Land Use	0	1	2
ORM claims	49	41	35
Total Claims	64	69	73

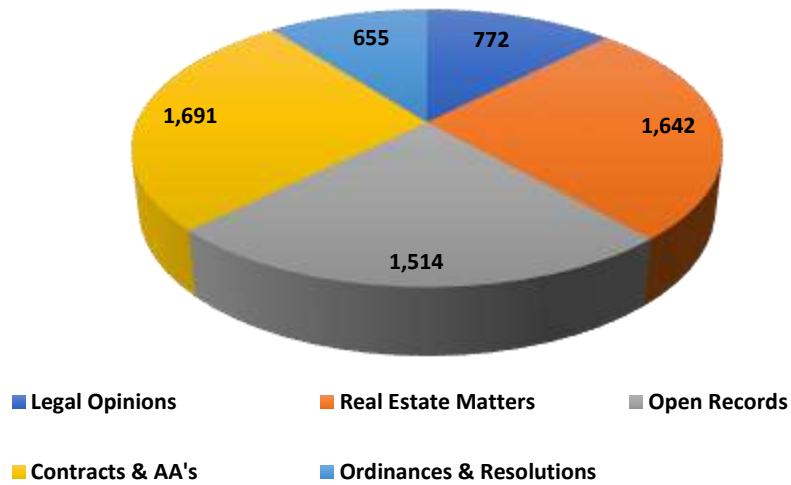
GENERAL COUNSEL ACTIVITIES



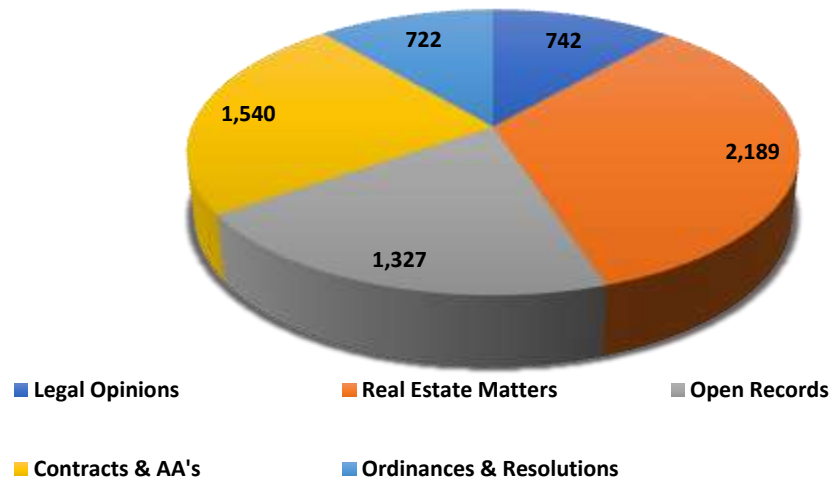
*FY18-19 numbers include duplicate and canceled items. The new data management system implemented in 2019 eliminated the duplicate and canceled items.



General Counsel FY19-20



General Counsel FY20-21

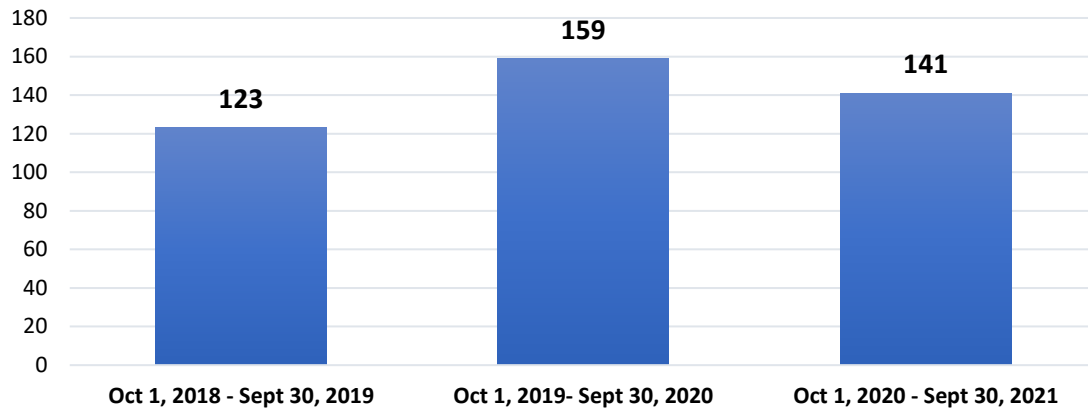


LAWSUITS FILED AGAINST THE CITY

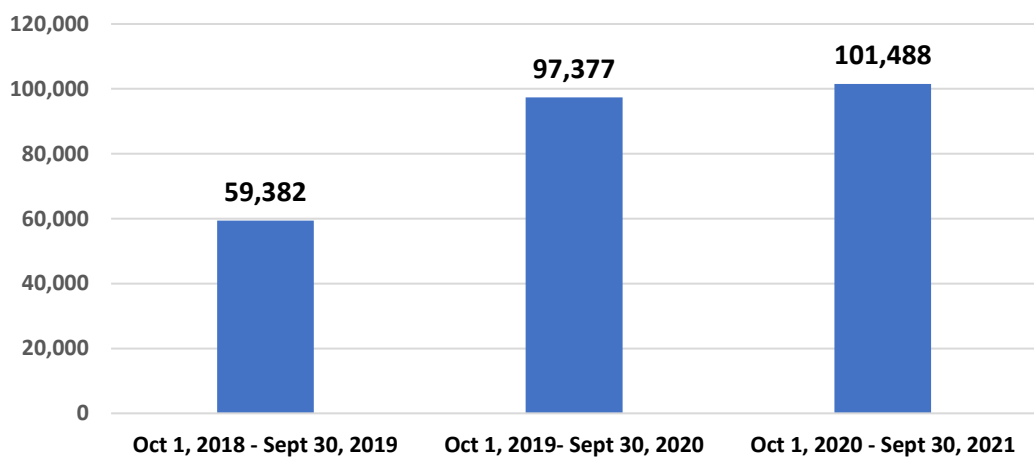
Lawsuits primarily arise in the following categories: city vehicle collisions, police conduct, miscellaneous police matters, appeal of city board decisions or orders, municipal infrastructure, incidents occurring at city facilities, employment, tax issues, issues involving dogs, property damage, breach of contract, worker's compensation appeals, challenges ordinances, and other matters.

- Police conduct matters include claims involving unlawful arrest, excessive force, officer-involved shootings, and failure to train.
- Miscellaneous police matters include property allegedly illegally seized by the police, illegal towing, and failure to investigate.
- Appeals of city board decisions include rulings made by the board of adjustments, city plan commission, or a municipal court.
- Municipal infrastructure matters include alleged sidewalk defects, uncovered utility holes, defective signposts, defective traffic signals, and defective roadways.
- City facilities matters include alleged injuries occurring at city-owned property.
- Employment issues include claims, such as discrimination, retaliation, and wage claims.
- Tax issues include third-party lender tax foreclosures.
- Dog issues include the appeal of dangerous dog determinations.
- Property damage claims include damage to underground cables and personal property. This category does not include property damage caused by vehicle accidents.
- Breach of contract claims include non-payment of invoices and vendors challenging provisions of a city contract.
- Challenge to ordinance claims include challenges to the sick leave ordinance, rental registration, and eight-liner machines.
- Other category includes disputes involving liens and land use issues.

Lawsuits Filed Against the City by Fiscal Year



Municipal Court Appearances by Fiscal Year



Note: In this table, “Police Conduct Matters” do not include police-related vehicle accidents or employment matters.

Category	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
City vehicle collisions	71	58	59
Police conduct	14	16	15
Miscellaneous police matters	8	18	15
Appeal of city board decisions or municipal court orders	5	2	0
Municipal infrastructure	20	13	17
City facilities	11	0	0
Personnel/Labor	3	7	3
Tax issues	9	16	4
Dog matters	4	6	1
Property damage	2	1	4
Breach of contract	3	4	1
Worker’s compensation appeals	0	2	1
Challenges to ordinance	3	0	2
Other	8	16	19
Total Lawsuits per Year	161	159	141

OUTCOME OF LAWSUITS

When lawsuits are filed, our litigators work aggressively and strategically to protect taxpayer resources, reduce litigation costs, and limit potential exposure by filing pleas to the jurisdiction, motions to dismiss defendants and causes of action, thereby narrowing the scope of defense. We seek to resolve cases on a fair, just, and equitable basis while at the same time zealously representing the city.

DEMOLITION AND REPAIR CASES

The Community Prosecution Section handles code enforcement litigation issues related to the enforcement of minimum housing standards at single-family and multi-family properties. Below is table that shows the cases handled in FY 2018-19, 2019-20, and 2021-21 which are categorized by demolitions and repairs.

Category	FY18-19	FY19-20	FY20-21	Total
Demo	14	17	14	51
Repair	42	27	11	98
Total	56	44	25	149

FAIR HOUSING CASES

Our office assists the Office of Equity & Inclusion, Fair Housing Division in the investigation and enforcement of housing discrimination complaints made under Chapter 20A of the Dallas City Code. The Fair Housing Division along with the CAO focuses on protecting the rights and interests of the residents of the city to housing without regard to race, color, sex, religion, handicap, familial status, national origin, or source of income.

The table below summarizes the fair housing cases for FY2018-19 beginning in June, FY2019-2020, and FY2020-2021.

FHO Matters	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Investigations reviewed	14	38	23
Conciliation agreements reviewed	7	27	17
Lawsuits filed	1	5	0
Lawsuits pending	0	5	1
Lawsuit dismissed	1	0	0
Lawsuits resolved	2	0	1
Legal opinions	0	1	2

MAJOR LITIGATION (DEFENSE) CASES – STATUS AS OF FY 20-21

Otis Davis, Sr., Individually, Dorothy O Jackson, Individually, and Lasandra Travis Davis, Individually and as the Administrator of the Estate of Decedent, Bertrand Syjuan Davis v. City of Dallas and Matthew Terry

In August 2015, several Dallas police officers responded to a 9-1-1 call about Bertrand Davis, who was trying to burn down a smoke house. Davis ran from the house and officers attempted to use their tasers to no effect. Officer Terry shot Davis when Davis reached for a gun from his vehicle which later was determined to be a pellet gun. Claims against the city based on *Monell* liability -- alleged deprivation of a federal right occurred as result of a city policy (i.e., training and supervision) had been dismissed by summary judgment. The officer is being sued for using excessive force. The plaintiffs are the parents and spouse of Davis.

Mary Dawes, Individually, and as the Administrator of the Estate of Decedent, Genevive A. Dawes, Alfredo Saucedo as Next Friend of Minors, K.R. and C.R. and Virgilio Rosales v. City of Dallas, Texas, Christopher Hess, and Jason Kimpel

In January 2017, Dallas police officers responded to a 9-1-1 call at an apartment complex about a suspicious person in a parked car that had been reported stolen. When the occupants tried to drive away, former officer Christopher Hess and officer Jason Kimpel, fired on the vehicle, resulting in the death of the driver, Dawes, and minor injuries to her male passenger, Virgilio Rosales. As a result of the incident, Officer Hess was fired and was indicted for aggravated assault by a public servant. The case was stayed as to Hess pending the resolution of the criminal charge. In February 2020, the jury in the criminal case found former officer Hess not guilty. Allegations against the city based on *Monell* liability -- alleged deprivation of a federal right occurred as result of a city policy relating to failure to train are pending. The officers are being sued for excessive force. The plaintiffs are the mother and father of the decedent, the two minor children of the decedent, and the passenger, Rosales.

Vicki Timpa, Individually, and as Representative of the Estate of Anthony Timpa, and Cheryl Timpa Individually as Next Friend of K.T., a minor child, and Joe Timpa, v. City of Dallas, Dustin Dillard, Danny Vasquez, Raymond Dominguez, Domingo Rivera, Kevin Mansell

In August 2016, Dallas police officers responded to a call where they encountered Mr. Timpa who was screaming and out of control. Security guards at the location subdued Timpa and placed him in handcuffs. When the officers arrived at the scene, they switched the handcuffs and secured Timpa's legs with flex ties. Dallas Fire-Rescue ("DFR") paramedics also responded to the scene. Officer Dillard restrained Timpa while waiting for the paramedics to provide medical assistance. Timpa then became still and unresponsive. He was transported to Parkland Hospital where he was pronounced deceased shortly after arrival. The officers were indicted for the criminal offense of deadly conduct, a Class A misdemeanor, and the civil case was stayed. The criminal charges were eventually dismissed. Plaintiffs are the mother of the decedent, the father of the decedent, and the spouse and minor child of the decedent. The city has been dismissed from the case.

Bertrum Jean, Individually and as the surviving father of Botham Shem Jean, Allison Jean, and as the surviving mother of Botham Shem Jean, and Allisa E. Findley as the Administrator of the Estate of Botham Shem Jean v. City of Dallas and Amber Guyger

In September 2018, former Dallas police officer Amber Guyger, while off-duty, shot Botham Jean in his apartment. Plaintiffs have sued the city and Guyger, asserting that Guyger was acting in her capacity as a police officer. Claims against the city based on *Monell* liability – alleged deprivation of a federal right occurred as result of a city policy of failure to train and supervise, and the claims against Guyger for using excessive force.

Christopher Kelson and Dakota Kelson, and Estate of Hirschell Fletcher, Jr. v. City of Dallas, a Municipal Corporation, Firefighter Kyle Foster Clark, Firefighter Brad Alan Cox, Officer George Morales, Officer Christopher Todd, Officer Nicholas Morris, Officer James Hernandez, Officer Harry Bradfield, Officer DSO Warren, and Officer Erica Russell

In December 2016, Hirschell Fletcher, Jr., a homeless man, suffering from a mental condition, was physically assaulted and robbed outside the Stew Pot in downtown Dallas. A Dallas police officer saw him and determined that he was injured and intoxicated. Dallas-Fire Rescue paramedics examined Fletcher and cleared him for transport to the City Detention Center (“CDC”). While at CDC, it was determined that Fletcher needed medical attention, so he was transferred to the hospital where he died. The paramedics, the officers who responded to the scene, and four employees of CDC, along with the city have been sued because of the incident. The two paramedics, Kyle Clark and Brad Cox, were charged and plead guilty to a misdemeanor, tampering with the paramedic report, a governmental record, and received probation.

Tasia Williams, Vincent Doyle, Brandon Saenz, and Randi Rogers v. City of Dallas, Texas, Chief Ulysha Renee Hall, Ryan Mabry, Victor Rocha, and Melvin Williams

Plaintiffs Tasia Williams and Vincent Doyle filed a federal lawsuit alleging that Dallas police officers used excessive force during peaceful protests in the wake of the George Floyd killing. They have also asserted claims for unlawful seizure, failure to supervise and discipline, and violation of their first amendment rights. On July 1, 2021, an amended complaint was filed adding two additional plaintiffs, Randi Rogers, and Brandon Saenz, and three additional officer defendants.

Ethelyn Ross, Individually and as Mother and Independent Administrator of the Estate of Diamond Ross, deceased and Clarence McNickles v. City of Dallas Police Department, City of Dallas Fire Rescue Department, Larry Moody, Individually and as an agent and/or employee of City of Dallas Police Department, William Ortega, Individually and as an agent and/or employee of City of Dallas Police Department, John and or Jane Does Individually and as an agent and/or employee of Dallas Marshals Office, John and or Jane Does Individually and as an agent and/or employee of City of Dallas Fire and Rescue Department

In 2020, Plaintiffs, the mother and father of the decedent, filed a federal lawsuit against the city, Dallas Police Department, DFR, Senior Corporal Moody, former Officer William Ortega, and unidentified John and Jane Does, asserting claims under federal law for denial of medical care, unconstitutional policies or customs, failure to train, supervise, and discipline its employees, and violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act, and claims under state law for negligence, wrongful death, and a survival action arising out of the arrest of Diamond Ross on August 18, 2018, and the denial of medical care to Diamond Ross at the CDC.

Yolanda Dobbins, Lily Godinez, and Megan Nordyke v. City of Dallas

Plaintiffs filed suit seeking damages from defendants for alleged acts of unlawful arrest, excessive force, inadequate training, false arrest, and negligent hiring, retention, and supervision committed by members of the Dallas Police Department. The court granted the city's motion to dismiss the plaintiffs' lawsuit on August 26, 2021. The plaintiffs appealed the court's ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Jason Kendall v. Taylor Smith and the City of Dallas

On October 14, 2018, Kendall and his friends were in Deep Ellum outside a bar, when they encountered Officer Smith and Officer Lee. Officer Smith was working an off-duty security job at a Deep Ellum bar, and Officer Lee was assisting with traffic control. Kendall walked into the street and was instructed to get back on the sidewalk for public safety reasons. Kendall complied, but then re-entered the street when he saw his female friend in the street talking to Officer Lee. Kendall alleges that he walked back on the sidewalk when Officer Smith grabbed, and body slammed him onto a parked car. Plaintiff filed suit against the city and Officer Smith. Plaintiff is seeking damages against the officer for excessive force and damages against the city for unlawful policies and customs and for failing to supervise Smith. On March 3, 2020, the plaintiff and the city filed a joint stipulation of dismissal with prejudice with respect to the claims against the city.

Juana Segovia; individually and as Personal Representative of the Estate of Juan Segovia Ramirez; Manuel Segovia; individually, Angie Segovia, individually, and Evelyn Segovia, individually v. City of Dallas, Texas; Alexis Booker-Lewis; Ashleigh Warren; Michael Rumsey; Craig Houston; Robert Beck; Kenneth Brown; Maxwell Boeckel; Rodney Featherston

On June 2019, Juan Jose Segovia Ramirez was arrested and transported to the City's Detention Center ("CDC") on outstanding warrants. Early the next day, CDC officers found Ramirez in his jail cell, unconscious and non-responsive. DFR paramedics transported Ramirez to a local hospital, where he subsequently died. Plaintiffs, the parents and two children of Juan Segovia filed suit in federal court against the city and eight current or former employees, namely: two Dallas police officers, Robert Beck and Kenneth Brown, two DFR employees, Captain Rodney Featherston and former emergency medical technician Maxwell Boeckel, and four CDC detention officers (three of whom resigned in lieu of termination). Plaintiffs claim that Ramirez was severely intoxicated, non-responsive and in need of medical attention, but the city and its employees were deliberately indifferent to his serious medical needs in violation of Ramirez's Fourteenth Amendment rights. Plaintiffs assert claims against the city for having unconstitutional policies or customs that permit employees to meet the serious medical needs of mentally ill and dangerously intoxicated pretrial detainees with deliberate indifference. The plaintiffs also assert a claim against the city based on the alleged unconstitutional "conditions of confinement" at the CDC. Plaintiffs also bring claims under Texas state law for wrongful death. The plaintiffs seek compensatory damages, punitive damages, attorney's fees, and costs.

Kyle Vess v. City of Dallas and Brad Alan Cox

Plaintiff alleges that when Dallas firefighters responded to an emergency call concerning a small grass fire on the side of a road nearby, Fire-Rescue Officer Brad Cox suspected that Vess had caused the fire and used force to detain him until Dallas Police Department officers arrived. Vess filed suit against the city and Cox, alleging claims against Cox for unreasonable seizure and excessive force. He asserts claims against the city based on alleged unconstitutional policies of

deliberate indifference in providing medical treatment to mentally ill and homeless persons, and inadequate training, supervision, and discipline of Cox.

Marsha Jackson v. Blue Star Recycling, LLC; CCR Equity Holdings One, LLC., Cabe Chadick, and City of Dallas

Marsha Jackson filed a citizen suit in federal court pursuant to the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) against defendants. As to the city, Plaintiff is claiming that the city failed to handle, store, dispose, or transport solid waste known as "shingle mountain." She alleges claims for RCRA violations and disparate treatment in zoning decisions based on race. She seeks injunctive relief, rezoning of the property, and attorney's fees and costs. The city instituted an enforcement action in state court against the former operator of a roof shingle recycling business and the property owners where the business was located. The State of Texas intervened in the state lawsuit. The city and CCR reached a settlement in the state case which resulted in the removal of the shingle materials at the property. The federal claims against the city were dismissed, and the plaintiff appealed the decision to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Millwee- Jackson Joint Venture et al. v. City of Dallas et al.

Millwee owns the property adjacent to Alamo Street. In 2001, the City Council approved an ordinance, abandoning a portion of Alamo Street to DART for the construction of a DART line with the understanding that DART would defend and indemnify the city in accordance with the terms of the abandonment ordinance. In 2004, Millwee sued the city and DART alleging various claims, including inverse condemnation and injunctive relief regarding the closure of Alamo Street. Pursuant to the ordinance, DART defended the claim involving the closure of Alamo Street until 2017, when Millwee dismissed the claims against DART but retained all of the claims against the city. Following a bench trial, the judge ruled on March 19, 2020, against Millwee on the inverse condemnation (takings) claim and granted Millwee an injunction ordering the city to reopen Alamo Street, from Houston Street to Oak Lawn Avenue, as the street had existed before the abandonment. Both the city and Millwee appealed.

Trinity East Energy, LLC v. City of Dallas

Trinity East alleges that it paid the city more than \$19 million in 2008 for a lease of the oil and gas mineral rights on more than 3,600 acres of city property in the northwest Dallas. Trinity East asserts that the city refused to grant it the necessary approvals to conduct drilling and production operations despite the city's "representations and promises" as well as the city's "contractual obligations." Trinity East is seeking in excess of \$50 million. On February 6, 2020, the jury rendered a verdict in favor of Trinity East on its statutory fraud and negligent misrepresentation causes of action and determined the damages resulting from those claims were \$23,414,148.80. The jury also returned a verdict in connection with Trinity's regulatory taking (inverse condemnation) cause of action, determining the difference in the fair market value of Trinity's property immediately before and immediately after the specific use permit denials on August 28, 2013 to be \$33,639,000.00. The jury also returned a verdict finding the city did not fail to comply with its lease with Trinity East. The court then concluded as a matter of law that the city had engaged in a regulatory taking of Trinity East's property by failing to approve one or more of the specific use permit applications. Because the damages available to Trinity East on its regulatory taking claim were greater than the damages available on its other claims, the court entered judgment for Trinity East on that claim. The case is on appeal.

City of Dallas v. Delta Airlines, Inc., Southwest Airlines Co., Virgin America, Inc., American Airlines, Inc., United Airlines, Inc.

The city sued involved airlines because of the irreconcilable demands, claims, and threats being made against it regarding airline gate use at Dallas Love Field. Delta claims a right to use gates even though Delta did not have a lease or sub-lease to use the gates. Southwest Airlines has preferential lease rights to use the gates in question and asserts that it no longer has any responsibility to accommodate Delta. The parties have been engaged in settlement negotiations

Romulus Group, Inc. v. City of Dallas

On January 11, 2012, Romulus entered into a written contract with the city to provide clerical and professional services to the city. Romulus alleges that soon after entering into the contract, the city demanded that Romulus provide temporary employees under a non-existent category called “Clerical Positions Not Listed.” The rate at which the city allegedly demanded the employees in the non-existent category would not cover Romulus’s costs and expenses in connection with providing the employees. Romulus sued the city for breach of contract and seeks \$1,600,000 in damages, attorney’s fees and interest. The city filed a motion for summary judgment on July 24, 2020, and the court granted the city’s motion as to change order employees and any claim for attorney’s fees and denied in part.

City of Corsicana, Navarro County, and Navarro College v. City of Dallas

Plaintiffs entered into tax abatement agreements with Home Depot USA, Inc., which began in year 2009. In November of 2011, Home Depot announced it was closing its Corsicana warehouse and moving its operations to Dallas. Plaintiffs are alleging that Home Depot abandoned its Navarro County warehouse and agreed to move to Dallas because the city offered Home Depot substantial economic incentives to lure Home Depot to Dallas. They also allege that the city tortiously interfered with Plaintiffs’ tax abatement agreements with Home Depot.

City of Dallas v. River Ranch Educational Charities et al.

In 2012, the city entered into a contract with River Ranch to provide operations at the Texas Horse Park. Due to numerous breaches (unauthorized vegetation and tree removal in the floodplain, incomplete insurance submittal, fence construction in violation of the city and heavy equipment issues), the city sent a written notice to River Ranch to vacate the premises at the Texas Horse Park. River Ranch refused, and the city filed a lawsuit asking for injunctive relief.

Employee Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas v. City of Dallas

In 2017, the City Council amended Chapter 8 of the Dallas City Code to add term limits on the employee-elected members of the board of the Employees’ Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas (“ERF”). In 2018, two members of the ERF Board ran for reelection for additional terms in violation of the term limits in the ordinance. The city secretary and the City Attorney’s Office notified the term-limited board members and ERF that they were ineligible for office and could be subject to a declaratory judgment action for running in violation of the City’s ordinance. The ERF brought a lawsuit against the city, arguing the term limits ordinance is invalid. ERF claimed that the term limits ordinance amended Chapter 40A of the Dallas City Code, which is the trust document for the ERF, because it changed the conditions for eligibility for the elected ERF board members. The city filed a motion for summary judgment, arguing the term limits ordinance is valid under Texas law and the Dallas City Code because term limits and other governance provisions are properly placed in Chapter 8 of the Dallas City Code. ERF filed its own motions for summary

judgment and asked the court to find the term limits ordinance invalid. The trial court granted the city's motion for summary judgment and denied ERF's motions. By ruling this way, the court found the term limits ordinance valid and resolved the principal issue in this case in the city's favor. On April 24, 2020, ERF appealed the decision to the Dallas Court of Appeals.

Lone Star Amusements, LLC and Afad Investments, Inc., v. City of Dallas and T.C. Broadnax, In his Official Capacity as Dallas City Manager

Two plaintiffs, Lone Star Amusements, LLC and AFAD Investments, Inc., have the city over Ordinance No. 31620, which prohibits coin-operated amusement devices in convenience stores. They have sued both the city and the city manager in his official capacity seeking a declaration that the ordinance is invalid and an injunction to prohibit the city from enforcing it. Additionally, plaintiffs seek economic damages under a claim that the regulations are an inverse condemnation of their property. Plaintiffs have alleged a purported ultra vires claim seeking to declare the statute invalid because it is preempted by chapter 2153 of the Occupations Code and sections of the Alcoholic Beverage Code and because it is a taking or a violation of due process under article I, sections 17 and 19 of the Texas Constitution. Plaintiffs also bring separate claim for inverse condemnation or violation of due process under article I, sections 17 and 19 of the Texas Constitution. With respect to the taking claim, Plaintiffs allege that they have a vested property right in the license they receive from the state to operate the coin-operated amusement device and that the ordinance deprives them of that right without just compensation.

TitleMax of Texas, Inc., Ivy Funding Co. LLC, and NCP Finance LP v. City of Dallas

On April 9, 2021, plaintiffs filed suit in state court challenging the January 2021 amendments to the short-term lending ordinance in Chapter 50 of the Dallas City Code. The petition seeks a temporary injunction, permanent injunction, and declaratory relief. The magistrate judge has recommended that the plaintiffs' motion for injunction be denied. The district court judge will make a final ruling on the injunction. The parties are conducting discovery.

CONFEDERATE MONUMENTS LAWSUITS

The General Litigation Section of the City Attorney's Office has handled five separately filed lawsuits, and multiple related appeals, challenging the city's removal of city-owned symbols of the Confederacy. The city has prevailed in each lawsuit. Only one of the appeals remains pending.

Background

In August 2017, Mayor Mike Rawlings appointed a task force to consider whether to remove Confederate monuments on city property and rename streets and other public places named for Confederate figures. On September 6, 2017, the City Council authorized the removal of the Robert E. Lee statue in what was then Lee Park (now Turtle Creek Park). The Lee statue, which was installed in 1936, was removed and placed in storage. The City Council also directed the task force to hold public meetings, which it did. The City Council authorized the sale of the Lee statue in May 2019, and it was sold at public auction in June 2019. The sale agreement specified that the statue could not be publicly displayed in the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Area and the restriction applies to any future owner.

The Confederate Monument consisted of a 65-foot-tall obelisk with a Confederate soldier on its top and statues of four Confederate generals at its base. It was originally placed in City Park in 1897 and was relocated to Pioneer Cemetery Park in 1961. In February 2019, the City Council directed that the monument be removed. However, before removal could begin, the city was enjoined by the Dallas Court of Appeals because of a pending appeal. In June 2020, the city requested, and the court of appeals allowed the city to proceed with removal. The monument was removed by the end of June 2020 and placed in archival storage.

Litigation

Hiram Patterson and Sons of Confederate Veterans v. Rawlings, et al.

In this first lawsuit, filed in September 2017, the plaintiffs sued in federal court to enjoin removal of the Lee statue and other monuments and to obtain title to two cemeteries in which Confederate soldiers are buried. The city obtained dismissal of all claims on the basis that the plaintiffs lacked standing to pursue the claims because they were not personally injured and because the City Council's decision to remove the monuments was government speech and not a violation of the First Amendment. The court entered judgment for the city in February 2018 and the plaintiffs did not appeal.

Return Lee to Lee Park and Katherine Gann v. Rawlings, et al.

This lawsuit resulted in five trial court and appellate proceedings. The plaintiffs filed in state court in April 2018 and argued that the Lee Statue could not be sold and that the Confederate Monument could not be removed. They claimed the monuments were protected state historical landmarks and that their removal was prohibited under the state's Antiquities Code. The trial court granted judgment for the city in April 2019, and the plaintiffs appealed. While the appeal was pending the appellate court issued an order preventing the removal of the Confederate Monument during the appeal. After the George Floyd protests in 2020, the city petitioned the appellate court to remove and safely store the monument due to concerns about damage and potential violence, and that motion was granted. The city won the appeal. The plaintiffs filed a petition for review in the Texas Supreme Court, which was denied in September 2021.

Warren Johnson v. Rawlings, et al.

The plaintiff filed this lawsuit in federal court in January 2019 and sought an injunction to prevent removal of the granite base of the Lee statue, prevent removal of other monuments, and allow inspection of the Lee statue that was in storage at the time. He claimed standing to sue as a taxpayer of the city for violation of his First Amendment rights. The court denied the injunction and ultimately dismissed all of plaintiffs' claims.

Chris Carter and Karen Pieroni v. City Plan Commission and City of Dallas

The Confederate Monument in Pioneer Cemetery required a certificate of demolition from the City Landmark Commission before it could be removed. The Landmark Commission granted the certificate, and these plaintiffs appealed to the City Plan Commission (the "CPC"), which upheld the decision. The plaintiffs then appealed the CPC decision to state court. They argued the monument was protected by the Antiquities Code as a state archeological landmark. The matter spawned six separate legal filings, including the CPC hearing, trial court, and four appellate proceedings. The city prevailed in the trial court in March 2020 and in the Dallas Court of Appeals in March 2021. The Texas Supreme Court denied plaintiffs' petition for review in September 2021.

Eugene Robinson v. City of Dallas and Jennifer Scripps

The plaintiff filed suit in state court in June 2020 to try to prevent removal of the Confederate Monument. The trial court denied an injunction and later issued final judgment for the city defendants in April 2021. The plaintiff appealed.

MAJOR LITIGATION (DEFENSE) – RESOLVED

Matisha Ward, Individually, and on behalf of the Estate of Antoinette Brown v. City of Dallas

On May 2, 2016, Antoinette Brown was attacked and mauled by several loose dogs. She was transported to the hospital where she died from her injuries a week later. Her daughter filed a lawsuit against the city alleging that under state law the city's failed policies and mismanagement of animal-related crimes resulted in Brown's death. She also asserted federal claims against the city for deprivation of Ms. Brown's 14th amendment substantive due process and equal protection rights. The city filed a motion to dismiss the state claims, which the court granted in November 2020. On March 24, 2021, the parties filed a joint stipulation of dismissal of the lawsuit which the court granted in April 2021.

Javier Saenz v. Elvin Calix-Barahona

On June 23, 2018, Dallas Police Officer Elvin Calix-Barahona and his partner Officer Rodriguez responded to a report of an intoxicated individual. Upon arrival, the officers found plaintiff Javier Saenz, who was obviously intoxicated. Plaintiff resisted the officers' efforts to handcuff him, and bit down on Officer Rodriguez's wrist. Officer Calix-Barahona used closed-hand strikes and knee strikes to plaintiff's head to try to induce the plaintiff to stop biting and release Officer Rodriguez's wrist. Plaintiff claims he did not actively resist arrest in any way, and Officer Calix-Barahona nonetheless repeatedly struck him and used body weight to restrain him in a prone position for approximately six minutes. Outside counsel was hired to represent Officer Calix-Barahona. The case settled for \$35,000.

Terrance Bass, Barry Boyd, Elizabeth Lopez, and Joseph Scott v. City of Dallas

Plaintiffs, former and current employees of the Code Compliance Services Department ("Code"), filed suit for alleged violations of the Fair Labor Standards Act, ("FLSA"). Plaintiffs are asserting that they were paid at their regular rate of pay when they worked more than 40 hours in a work week and were not paid overtime for answering calls and emails during lunch and after hours. The federal judge conditionally certified a collective action relating to certain Code employees which included 81 plaintiffs. On February 24, 2021, the City Council approved the settlement in the amount of \$2,450,000. The court approved the settlement and dismissed the lawsuit on August 6, 2021.

Dallas Police and Fire Pension System v. City of Dallas

Plaintiff Dallas Police and Fire Pension System sued the city to recover pension contributions allegedly due from the city for periods of military service by police officers and firefighters under USERRA. On March 19, 2020, the city filed a motion to dismiss for failure to state a claim. In December 2020, the court granted the City's motion to dismiss, finding that the plaintiff lacked standing to bring its claim.

ESI/Employee Solutions, LP and Hagan Law Group, LLC v. City of Dallas

Plaintiffs filed a lawsuit to enjoin the city's paid sick leave ordinance. The employer plaintiffs claim the ordinance violated the U.S. Constitution by violating: (1) their Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures; (2) their Fourteenth Amendment right to equal protection; and (3) their own and their employees' First Amendment right to freedom of association. They also claimed the ordinance is preempted by the Texas Minimum Wage Act and therefore violated the Texas Constitution. The State joined the lawsuit arguing the ordinance is preempted by state law. The plaintiffs sought a declaration that the ordinance is unenforceable and a permanent injunction preventing enforcement. They also sought a preliminary injunction barring enforcement while the lawsuit is pending. On March 30, 2020, the federal judge granted the preliminary injunction and held that the ordinance is unenforceable and that "no officer, agent, servant, employee, attorney, or other person in active concert with the City of Dallas may enforce the Paid Sick Leave Ordinance against any business or entity pending the resolution of this case." On March 26, 2021, the court granted the city's motion to dismiss in part and denied it in part. The Fourth Amendment claim was dismissed. On March 31, 2021, the court granted the plaintiffs' motion for summary judgment and held that the earned paid sick time ordinance is preempted by the state's minimum wage act. The court granted a permanent injunction preventing the city from enforcing the ordinance and issued a final judgment.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

TEENS FOR DALLAS INITIATIVE

The Dallas Youth Commission is a group of civically engaged and diverse youth located in the City of Dallas that are appointed by the city council. Originally founded in 1994, the Youth Commission provides a much-needed voice for students in Dallas with a purpose to address and advocate for issues and bring impactful change to the community. The Youth Commission is governed by a talented fifteen-member board consisting of high school students (grade 9-12) that serves their community while gaining the tools necessary to become effective and dedicated leaders in the future.

At the first of the year, the Youth Commission and CAO launched a new community service grant initiative. This grant initiative creates a platform for youth organizations to engage in community service projects through the city, provide financial support to youth organizations who qualify for grant funds, and build a collaborative community of dedicated youth volunteers in the City of Dallas.

Our office provided the funding, technical support with developing the initiative, and training and resources for the community service events. The Youth Commission developed the application process, interviewed potential recipients, evaluated, and recommended funding for organizations, and coordinated the community service projects. This summer, the Youth Commission awarded over \$2,500 to organizations.

EXPUNCTION EXPO

The City Attorney's Office partnered with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the Dallas County District Clerk's Office for the 5th annual expunction expo. This program identifies people who may have Dallas County criminal offenses eligible to be legally cleared from their record and pairs them with volunteer attorneys, who assist the individuals with filing the necessary legal paperwork to expunge their records. These cases may include instances in which an individual was arrested, but a criminal charge was never filed, or the case was not billed. Without an expunction, these cases still appear on a person's criminal background check which may affect their ability to secure housing or employment.

The District Attorney's Office compiled a list of individuals who submitted an application to participate in the expunction expo. From that list, the City Attorney's Office reviewed 4,687 cases involving Class C misdemeanor offenses and designated a total of 2,148 cases as eligible for expunction. The Class C misdemeanor cases that have been designated as eligible for expunction will be included in the expunction process. Those who may qualify for an expunction will be notified and invited to attend a pre-qualification clinic, and they will be paired with volunteer attorneys. Individuals whose records are expunged during this process are invited to a graduation ceremony in December.

BIG CITIES TEXAS AND NATIONAL

At the beginning of the COVID-19 Pandemic, it became apparent that cities in Texas and throughout the country were facing similar legal issues related to public health and safety. As a result, I formed the Texas cities working group consisting of city attorneys from large cities throughout Texas to discuss and strategize about legal issues impacting municipalities during the Pandemic. Our working group initially began meeting virtually once a week to discuss topics such as mask mandates, enforcement issues, federal funding from Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (“CARES Act”) and American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”), the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (“FFCRA”), and vaccines. We have recently started meeting monthly, and our meetings have evolved to cover various legal issues affecting Texas municipalities. The working group has become a great source of information and a valuable resource for the participating city attorney’s offices.

In addition to this working group, I began participating on a monthly call with big cities throughout the country to discuss legal issues impacting large cities throughout the United States. In June 2021, I participated in a panel with general counsel for Los Angeles, New York City, and Philadelphia to discuss emergency lawyering during the Pandemic, the cities’ response efforts, best practices, and a vision for the future.

TRAININGS AND PRESENTATIONS

The City Attorney’s Office used to hold its in-house continuing legal education (“CLE”) seminars once a year, during a one or two-day sessions. Beginning in August 2020, we decided to approach the CLE seminars differently and started holding one-hour sessions each month covering different legal topics. We host the CLEs through Teams Meetings due to COVID-19 and record the sessions so that attorneys who are unable to attend can watch the seminar at their convenience to earn required CLE credit. The seminars for this fiscal year have included topics such as, ethics, public finance and revenue bond deals, airport law, immigration law, employee benefits and pension, updated rules of civil procedure, disclosure responsibilities for a municipal issuer, federal legislative process, and cybersecurity laws.

In addition, the CAO provides membership to the Dallas Bar Association (“DBA”) for attorneys. The DBA regularly provides CLE courses on various topics, and attorneys have been taking advantage of the free CLEs through their DBA membership. We are also members of the International Municipal Lawyers’ Association where our attorney’s gotten to collaborate with attorneys across the country and have access to valuable continuing legal education programs and legal research on a wide variety of municipal topics.

I also allocated funds for each section to receive necessary trainings and CLE courses related to specific practice areas and administrative topics. This training budget includes training for both attorney and non-attorney positions. In addition, the CAO has taken advantage of mandatory grant-funded trainings for drug court and veteran’s court in Community Courts.

INTERNSHIP/EXTERNSHIP PROGRAMS

The City Attorney's Office has a summer internship program where qualified law students from local law schools, such as UNT Dallas College of Law, Texas A&M Law School and SMU Dedman School of Law can obtain invaluable practical legal experience. Interns assist with a variety of issues including legal research, drafting legal memoranda, motions, briefs, etc. In FY 2020-2021, the CAO had eight summer interns who worked during two sessions. At the conclusion of each session, we met with the interns about their experience, and they expressed their appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the summer internship program.

In addition, we have an externship program where qualified law students can gain practical legal experience for school credit. In the spring of 2021, we had an extern from UNT Dallas College of Law who had to complete 154 hours of legal training during the semester to get credit for his externship. We currently have another extern from UNT Dallas College of Law who is participating in the externship program with the same requirement to complete 154 hours of legal training for school credit.

SIGNIFICANT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Largely managed a city's legal response team to provide legal advice in connection with COVID-19 issues and developments.

Eviction Moratorium ongoing collaboration with the City Attorney's Office strike force team to support city's efforts to mitigate tenants' evictions consistent with the various Texas Supreme Court Orders and CDC's Eviction Moratorium.

Created various contracts (grant/loan agreements, various services contracts, childcare provider services agreements, rental assistance, services agreements, supportive services agreements for the homeless, personal protective equipment, eviction assistance, food assistance) in response to COVID-19, for the receipt and use of U.S Treasury funds and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development funds.

Assisted in processing a backlog of open records requests for the reopening of City Hall. The backlog was due to closing of City Hall in March of 2020, as a result of COVID-19.

Managed legal issues related to the 2021 election and supplied a City Attorney as the presiding judge for the central count station and advised DPD on various issues related to enforcement of criminal offenses at polling places during the November elections.

Monitored legislation during the 2021 legislative session.

Obtained a \$1 million judgment against the former operator of the Shingle Mountain property and acquired the property so it cannot be used for any other illegal purposes in the future.

Assisted the Dallas Police Department in pursuing criminal nuisance properties and successfully reduced the number of criminal offenses committed at several properties including drug houses, apartment complexes and commercial businesses throughout the city.

Helped facilitate collaboration and communication between city departments, including working with the newly re-established DPD Vice Unit, Building Inspection, and Code Compliance to bring everyone on the same page regarding DPD permits and licenses, and streamline a warrant process where vice works directly with ICR when executing narcotics warrants, and directly with CP when executing massage parlor warrants that require an immediate TRO, & thereafter obtained TRO's to close several illegal massage establishments.

Participated in UNT Law School Externship Program to sponsor an extern interested in municipal real estate/construction law during the Covid-19 pandemic remote work environment to successfully maintain CAO-UNT Law School working relationship.

Assisted with procurement process changes resulting in threshold increases to transactions available to be processed by Administrative Action.

Processed critical purchase and sale transactions including the acquisition of the Blue Star Recycling property, Hotel Miramar and Candlewood Suites and the acquisition of 9759 Forest Lane. Drafted and negotiated the Property Management and Supportive Services contracts for the Miramar Hotel and the Candlewood Hotel. The project included various funding sources and required a separate agreement for each source., which required consultation and collaboration with Bond Counsel.

Negotiated and developed various contracts for the Department of Housing and Neighborhood Revitalization in support of affordable housing.

Assisted Economic Development with various contracts related to the development and implementation of the Economic Development Policy and other economic development activities

Advised DPD on training updates to correspond with DPD's new marijuana enforcement procedures.

Responded to Congressional Inquiry from the US House Committee on Oversight and Reform regarding DPD's Use of Force.

Won motion to dismiss all claims (RCRA and constitutional) in the lawsuit *styled Marsha Jackson v. City of Dallas*. Also assisted and advised on settlement of state court litigation.

Carter, Return Lee, Robinson – Confederate monument cases. Continued success in these cases. Carter and Return Lee - won on appeal in the Dallas Court of Appeals. Robinson - won on a plea to the jurisdiction. All upholding the decision made by City Council to remove monuments.

Created a Virtual Teen Court Program for the Dallas Municipal Court without putting participants at risk of contracting COVID-19.

Working with the Dallas District Attorney's Office on reviewing cases for the DA's Expunction Expo Program.

Provided service to the Dallas Municipal Court and residents of Dallas virtually and in-person as needed to ensure all municipal court case dockets, community court case dockets, and inquiries are properly addressed, covered, and resolved.

The Prosecution Office has worked with Court and Detention Services and Judiciary to dismiss 335,163 outstanding citations going back 20 years as part of the Court's Dismissal Project to allow those offenders to obtain jobs, housing and other services that may be hampered by outstanding citations and warrants.

During FY 2020-2021, Community Courts made significant contributions to the city by assisting with various initiatives, including the COVID-19 vaccination efforts at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center, Office of Community Care's rental assistance program, the Community Clean Trash Off project for various council districts, back to school drives, toys and coats giveaways, A/C unit giveaways, food distribution for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center and West Dallas Multi-Purpose Center, and the Community Connection event for the Homeless Coalition of Dallas.

Community Courts also assisted with the Dallas County District Attorney's Office and the Dallas County District Clerk's Office 5th annual expunction expo by registering participants. Community Courts continue to assist community partners with the drive thru rental and utilities assistance programs. Community Courts are also assisting with the Fresh Start Employment Program through community outreach, participation in career fairs, and social service programs.

Coordinated with Municipal Court and DPD to develop a virtual hearing process for Disposition of Property matters.

Handled hot button issues including marijuana, short-term rentals, responsible banking, the Bella Lagos boundary adjustment, amending the City Council rules of procedure, and the Board of Adjustment compliance cases.

Drafted legal bulletins for DPD regarding Supreme Court update on community caretaking exception to the warrant requirement affecting the seizures of persons with mental illness believed to be a danger to themselves or others.

Successfully represented DPD in a dispute with the Texas Department of Public Safety related to compliance with licensing requirements for NCIC/TCIC criminal database access.

Successfully negotiated amendments to the Commemorative Air Force's development agreement and lease at Dallas Executive Airport so that they could obtain new market tax credits to construct capital improvements approved by City Council on March 24, 2021.

Reviewed the Southern Gateway Deck Plaza Development Agreement, Klyde Warren Phase II Project, and CTC Trail project.

Worked with and advised interdepartmental effort to fight the digital divide and develop projects to bring accessible and robust internet connectivity to Dallas residents most in need of it.

Represented Texas cities in national coalitions to resist efforts to reduce cities' compensation for use of and authority over public right-of-way in court and before Congress and the FCC.

Assisted Housing and Economic Development with various contracts related to the development and implementation of the Economic Development Policy and other development economic activities including various Chapter 380 Grant agreements for the expansion and development of commercial building and job creation. Hi-Line Connector Tax increment financing project, a ten-mile expansion of the Katy Trail and further streamlining the Public Improvement District process.

Worked as legal counsel for the redistricting commission to assist the redistricting process.

CareATC Contract – a contract amendment to allow a sub-vendor to provide certain COVID-19 related service.

Flatiron Constructors, Inc. - Reconstruction of Runway 13R/31L - this was a civil services construction contract for \$124 million runway reconstruction at Love Field

Unique Management Services, Inc. - Library Curbside pickup - 2021 - for software that allowed the library to continue curbside pickup services while closed during COVID

270 Lease and Development Agreement - Dallas Executive Airport

Works with departments and negotiated the Red Bird Project complex issues and the Lead-Based Paint Contracts.

Processed the acquisition of 5580 Peterson Lane – Mid-Town Valley View Project.

LEGISLATIVE

Before each legislative session, the City Council and city departments send their legislative requests to the City Attorney's office which are then taken to the Legislative Ad Hoc Committee for consideration. The Committee then votes on those items and sends that list to the City Council. Then the council votes on the final list and that list is discussed with the state delegation and other members of the legislature for support.

During session the City Attorney's office, along with the City Manager's legislative liaisons, work through the Legislative Director of the City Attorney's Office to advocate for and against legislation at the Capitol in Austin in every odd-numbered year. Once the session is completed, a review of the bills that have passed that affect the city are then presented to the City Council during a wrap up session and afterwards are organized into new codes which are distributed to each city department showing the changes in law and how it will affect them operationally.

The 87th Legislative Session was dominated by questions on how to spend the billions of federal dollars for COVID-19 restorative funding, questions about who should pay for winterization of the state's power grid, and broad-based bans on local regulations.

The conclusion of the regular session saw a number of bills passed by the legislature that will have a major impact, directly and indirectly, on the City of Dallas. This session yielded 7,385 filed bills by members of the legislature, of those 1,174 were sent to the Governor. Meanwhile, over 1,400 bills were filed were of interest to the City of Dallas and 165 of those passed. Here are some of the most impactful bills the city will contend with moving forward:

- HB 17 – Relating to a restriction on the regulation of utility services and infrastructure based on the energy source to be used or delivered
- HB 54 - Relating to prohibiting law enforcement departments from contracting with television crews
- HB 525 – Relating to the protection of religious organizations
- HB 1869 – Relating to the definition of debt for the purposes of calculating certain ad valorem tax rates of a taxing unit
- HB 1900 - Relating to municipalities that adopt budgets that defund municipal police departments
- HB 1925 - Relating to prohibitions on camping in a public place
- HB 2315 - Relating to the forfeiture of contraband relating to the criminal offense of racing on a highway
- HB 2404 - Relating to the creation and maintenance of a database of information regarding certain local economic development agreements
- SB 3 - Relating to preparing for, preventing, and responding to weather emergencies, power outages, and other disasters
- SB 19 - Relating to prohibited contracts with companies that discriminate against the firearm or ammunition industries
- SB 315 - Relating to restrictions on the age of persons employed by or allowed on the premises of a sexually oriented business
- SB 877 - Relating to the inspection of municipal buildings during a declared disaster
- SB 1495 – Relating to certain criminal offenses related to highways and motor vehicles
- SB 2181 – Relating to the use of hotel occupancy tax revenue by certain municipalities for certain projects

This past session saw three additional special sessions to address a number of bills, including redistricting. Upon conclusion of the third called session, the State is now engaged in interim activities. During the interim, agency hearings are monitored for rule changes that may affect the city and committee hearings are monitored where written or verbal testimony is given to help shape future policy and legislation before the next session.