

# Fiscal Year 2007/2008 Budget Highlights and Goals

## STATE'S ATTORNEY

### **FY2007 Highlights**

The State's Attorney's Office aggressively manages the ever increasing workload of our growing County. In addition to providing legal service to Elected Officials and Department Heads, the Civil Division issued over 855 legal opinions, reviewed more than 225 public contracts, handled 42 involuntary commitment petitions, responded to 48 FOIA requests, assisted 475 clients in their efforts to obtain child support for children in McHenry County and opened approximately 801 new ordinance violations on behalf of County Departments. The Civil Division had a total of 125 new litigation cases. The Civil Division is also charged with the responsibility of preventing the litigation of conflicts to which the County may be a party.

The Criminal Division has enjoyed a successful conviction rate with the goal toward protection of the public and rehabilitation of the offender toward a law abiding return to the community. There have been 3,151 felony charges against 1,336 adult offenders and 4614 misdemeanor charged filed against 3563 adult offenders. The Juvenile/Criminal Division filed 900 delinquency petitions against 370 juvenile offenders under 17 years of age. They have also filed 65 abuse and neglect petitions protecting children from unsafe family conditions.

The Narcotics Unit, a special unit of the Felony Criminal Division, initiated 600 drug prosecutions against offenders involving felony cannabis and controlled substance violations. This unit has seized assets and property of drug offenders valued at over \$37,500.00 with the seizure of 16 vehicles valued at \$120,000.00 pending. The overall projection for 2007 is \$307,500.00. The projection for asset forfeitures in 2008 is \$300,000.00 to \$370,000.00.

The Investigation Unit has processed and served 183 Grand Jury Subpoenas and 704 Summons and Subpoenas for witnesses, defendants, and police officers. There were 887 Subpoenas processed of which 639 were successfully served for a success rate of 86%. In addition, they have provided photographic evidence for the State's Attorney's Office, copied audio and visual tapes and/or CD's for distribution to police departments and defense counsel, supplied information in response to 300 telephone requests, handled 100 walk in complaints, arranged over 50 interviews and prepared accompanying reports and conducted 25 investigations. Further, the unit assisted in locating and interviewing numerous witnesses and assisted the Johnsborg Police and the FBI in the Grand Jury investigation of the Carrick case. The Investigative Unit assisted in an Attempted Murder trial by taking photographs, assisting in the preparation of witnesses, and preparing photographic evidence for court. They assisted in the launching of the Check Enforcement Program by preparing informational material, meeting with numerous civil groups, including chambers of commerce and Rotary clubs, and worked with police agencies to coordinate the arrest of non-compliant offenders. The program required the handling of hundreds of telephone calls and personal contact visits with businesses and offenders to manage the program. County wide seminars were conducted with the assistance of the Investigative Unit on various topics including the Open Meetings Act. The unit also responded to election law violations.

### **FY2008 Goals**

The main focus in FY 2008 will be to develop and implement a Drug Court and a First Offender Program. The State's Attorney's Office will maintain the Check Enforcement Program which was fully operational in 2007 and act as liaison for the Mental Health Court instituted in 2007. It will continue to provide in-house litigation and decrease the need for outside counsel. The resources of the State's Attorney's Office are committed to better serve the people of McHenry County and provide justice for all.