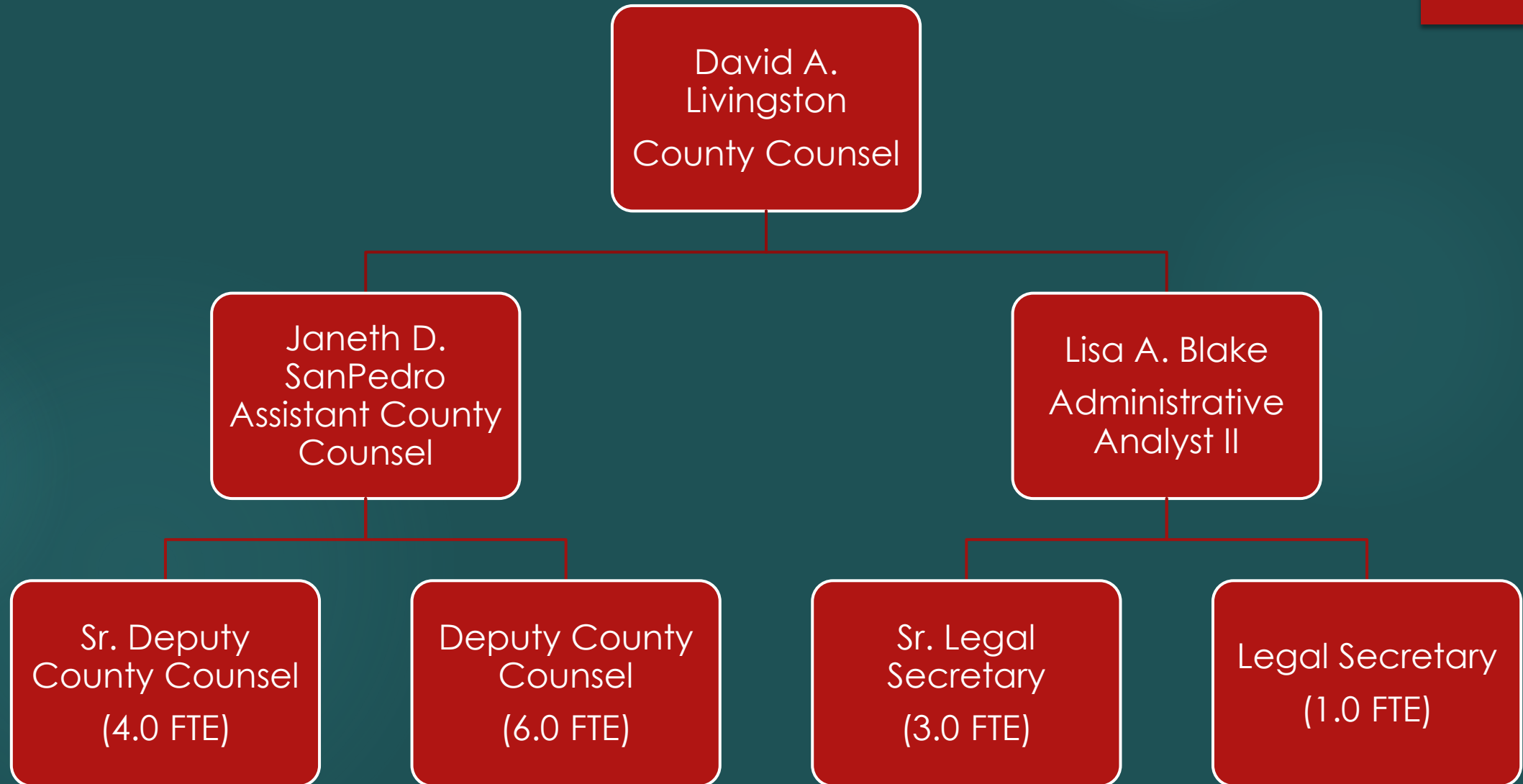


# County Counsel Department Overview 2025

PRESENTED TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ON  
FEBRUARY 5, 2025

# Organizational Chart



# Role of County Counsel

- ▶ The Office of the County Counsel is the legal advisor to the County (i.e., the Board of Supervisors, County Departments, and independently elected County officials).
- ▶ A County Counsel's office, once established, assumes the civil functions of the District Attorney (Gov. Code §27642), including the following:
  - ▶ Provide legal services to the County (§ 26520)
  - ▶ Represent the County and its officers and employees in civil actions (§26521)
  - ▶ Act as the legal adviser to the Board of Supervisors and attend Board meetings (§ 26526)
- ▶ County Counsel also represents and advises the grand jury (Penal Code § 934), the Assessment Appeals Board (§31000.7), the Air Pollution Control District (H&S Code § 40101), and the Resource Conservation District (Pub.Res.Code § 9418).
- ▶ Per County ordinance, the County Counsel's office is required to review all contracts, proposed ordinances, and resolutions.
- ▶ Note that while the Office of the County Counsel is a public law office it does not provide legal advice to members of the public.



# Net County Cost of \$3,615,290

	23/24 (Budgeted)	23/24 (Actual)	24/25 (Budgeted)
Total Appropriations	\$4,126,448	\$3,983,914	\$4,292,090
Total Revenue	\$476,300	\$583,485	\$676,800
FTE's	17	17	17
Net County Cost	\$3,650,148	\$3,400,429	\$3,615,290
% Net County Cost	88%	85%	84%

# Non-General Fund Revenue Sources

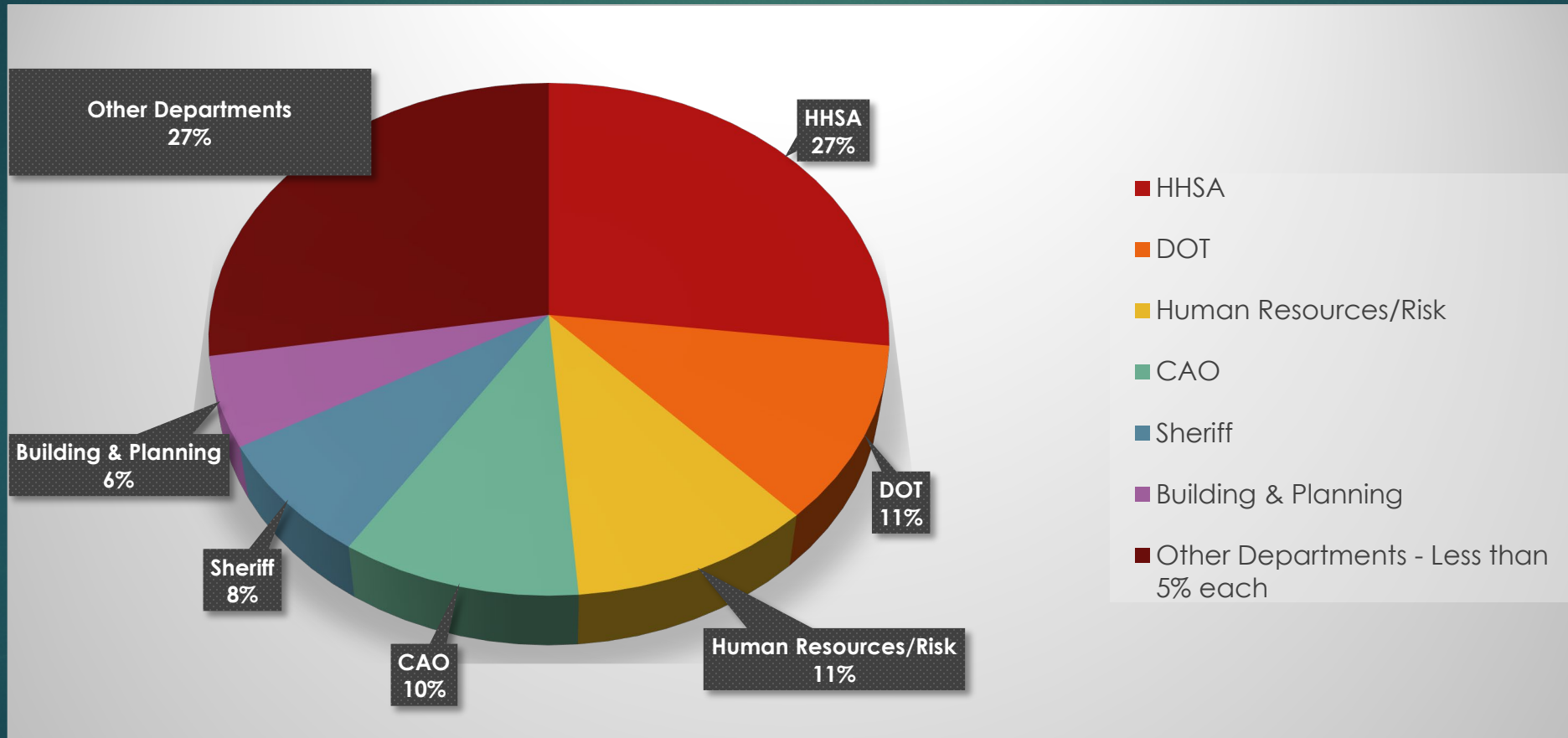
- ▶ Court-ordered awards of attorney fees
- ▶ Direct charges to departments (e.g., DOT, Risk Management, EMS, EMD, and AQMD)
- ▶ Reimbursement from developer-driven litigation

# Service and Performance Indicators

	CY23	CY24
Juvenile Dependency – new cases opened	69	74
Juvenile Dependency – total active cases	144	140
Public Guardian – new cases opened	33	47
Public Guardian – total active cases	242	289
Other Litigation Matters* – new cases opened	36	26
Other Litigation Matters* – total active cases	Not available	29
Legal Services Requests received	701	679
Contracts/Requisitions reviewed	1616	1551

\*Includes Code Enforcement, Animal Services, Civil Service Commission, Pitchess motions, Riese Hearings, and other similar administrative/judicial hearings handled in-house.

# Matters Opened by Department (2024)





# Role in the Strategic Plan

- ▶ The County Counsel's Office's primary role in implementing the Strategic Plan is through its support to other County departments in furtherance of their identified strategic plan goals.
- ▶ Additionally, the County Counsel's Office directly contributes to the Strategic Plan through the pursuit of litigation and defense of claims.



# Upcoming Policy and Programmatic Changes

Change 1: SB43 - Legal definition change in qualifying persons for Conservatorship under the Lanterman-Petris-Short (LPS) Act.

Change 2: Community Assistance, Recovery & Empowerment (CARE) Court – New civil court process connecting schizophrenia or psychotic disorders with county behavioral health services under the oversight of a judge.

Change 3: Additional Code Enforcement involvement due to expanded enforcement operations.