

ERIE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY'S OFFICE - 2008 YEAR END REPORT

The Erie County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is divided into two divisions: the criminal division and the civil division. The criminal division is charged with the investigation and prosecution of crimes committed in Erie County including felonies, misdemeanors and juvenile offenders. The civil division is the legal adviser and representative of Erie County which includes an estimated 175 clients ranging from elected official, townships and school districts. The civil division deals with matters involving government law, tax collection, civil lawsuits, labor negotiations and dispute resolutions.

In the year 2008, there were 616 persons indicted for crimes by the Erie County Grand Jury which is a record second only to the year 2006 in which 684 indictments were issued.

Another important component of the Erie County Prosecuting Attorney's Office is the victim/witness division. Last year, this program served more than 1850 victims of crime(not including victims of pending cases) whose cases appeared in six different courts in Erie County.

The Civil Division provides legal advice and representation as statutory counsel to the Board of County Commissioners and all county departments that fall within it's jurisdiction, all Erie County Townships and their elected officials, officers and boards, Public Libraries, the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas and all Erie County elected officials including the Sheriff, Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Coroner and Clerk of Courts. In the course of its duties, the Civil Division fields a wide range of questions from its clients on a host of legal issues that pertain to the performance of the statutory duties of elected officials and government entities, reviews contracts, provides representation in litigation and attends board meetings. The Civil Division issued 21 formal written legal opinions and handled 150 civil issue files in 2008. The Civil Division also handled 66 tax foreclosure cases in 2008 and through its collection efforts secured payment by agreement or litigation of \$983,015.77 in delinquent real property taxes.

Finally, the Prosecutor's Office represents the Erie County Department of Job & Family Services in child abuse, neglect and dependency cases. In 2008, the office handled new complaints on 8 abuse cases, 16 negligence cases and 63 dependency cases. In addition, the office handled 9 new cases on children placed into Erie County Department of Job and Family Services custody by the Juvenile Court under unruly, delinquency and probation violation cases.