



# San Diego City Attorney Jan I. Goldsmith

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **City Attorney Goldsmith's Administration Cuts Outside Counsel Defense Costs**

**San Diego, CA:** New figures released by the City of San Diego Risk Management Department and additional figures published by the Watchdog Institute show that the San Diego City Attorney's Office has substantially reduced outside counsel defense costs. According to Risk Management's fiscal year-based figures, those costs have been substantially cut from \$10.9 million in the fiscal year from July, 2008 to June, 2009 to \$6 million in the fiscal year from July, 2009 to June, 2010. The Watchdog Institute's numbers on calendar year-based figures, reported on December 7, 2010, that "expenses for outside counsel decreased from \$11.9 million in [calendar year] 2009 to \$2.7 million in [calendar year] 2010 through Oct. 28."

<http://www.watchdoginstitute.org/2010/12/09/san-diego-city-claims/>

Since taking office two years ago, City Attorney Jan Goldsmith has instituted a process to screen and limit use of outside counsel only where required by law. ([Standards and Procedures Regarding Outside Legal Counsel](#)) As a result, only three defense cases have been sent to outside counsel in two years—all three based upon conflicts where the city attorney's office must be recused. "We're striving to do better in limiting outside counsel in all areas to the best of our ability," said Goldsmith.

"We've spent the better part of two years rebuilding the office into a real law firm so we can handle cases and not have to hire outside counsel," said Goldsmith. "We're now a real law firm, with efficient training, quality control and supervision. We have confidence in our lawyers to handle big and important cases and we're winning."

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