



Regional Counsel, Second Region

Ita M. Neymotin, Esq., LL.M., M.P.A., LSS Black Belt
2024-2025 Legislative Priorities

Regional Counsels provide legal representation for indigent people with substantial cost savings. It has been estimated to date, the Regional Counsels have saved the State of Florida millions of dollars.

Attorney Recruitment and Retention (Salary & Benefits)

Recruitment and retention of Assistant Regional Counsels is a major priority for the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel, Second Region. To retain current experienced ARCs FTE and recruit new ARCs FTE to fill ongoing vacancies, Regional Counsel 2 is requesting a \$15,000 pay increase for all authorized ARC positions. ARCs are leaving public service faster than they can be trained and replaced. Private law firms are paying significantly more than the starting salaries approved by the Florida Legislature, and OCCCRs are finding it increasingly difficult to compete for talent. The requested pay increase will provide essential assistance in keeping ARC attorneys.

Dependency Pilot Project

Regional Counsel 2 is proposing a Dependency Pilot Project to decrease workload burden on Dependency attorneys, increase the number of cases handled, re-unify families quicker, thus, shortening time in foster care, and save the taxpayer's money. Regional Counsel 2 is requesting the addition of 5 Dependency Social Workers who will closely collaborate with the assigned Dependency attorneys and serve as the primary point of contact for Dependency clients. Regional Counsel 2 is also requesting 5 Paralegals and 1 Social Worker Coordinator.

Increased Rent

Regional Counsel 2 is requesting rent increases because the counties do not provide Regional Counsel with offices, so we must retain private office space.

Cross Jurisdictional Death Penalty Program

Regional Counsel 2 is proposing a Cross Jurisdictional Death Penalty Program to take cases in central (Orlando/Ocala) and north (Tallahassee) Florida (Judicial Circuits 2,5, and 9) to show how it will provide death penalty litigation at a reduced cost when compared with private registry counsel.