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**2023-2024 Legislative Priorities**

Regional Counsels provide legal representation for indigent people with substantial cost savings. The Justice Administrative Commission has estimated that to date, the Regional Counsels have saved The State of Florida millions compared to private registry counsel.

**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 District Court of Appeal. 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 government positions and RC2 is finding it increasingly difficult to compete for talent. The requested pay increase will provide essential assistance in recruiting attorneys.

**Additional Equipment/Motor Vehicle**

The Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel 2nd DCA is in dire need of vehicles. Currently, there are no vehicles available for employee travel, which results in employees utilizing their own vehicles or renting a vehicle for intra-circuit and statewide travel. Employee mileage reimbursement and the cost of renting vehicles are a direct impact to the agency's state general revenue funds. The use of state-owned vehicles, purchased with the agency's operational funds, will ultimately result in a savings to the state.

**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, while still ensuring client representation is adequate and is not diminished in effectiveness.