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## PRESS RELEASE

### State's Attorney Tom Gibbons: Appellate Prosecutor Contract Saves County More Than \$200k

Edwardsville--A contract with the Illinois State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor saved Madison County taxpayers more than \$200,000 in fiscal year 2011, according to State's Attorney Tom Gibbons.

Gibbons' office maintains a contract with the state's Appellate Prosecutor to handle appeals and conflict of interest cases that County prosecutors cannot legally oversee. The County's contract is \$30,000 per year, a fee that is based on the county population.

"By utilizing the services of the Appellate Prosecutor in lieu of contracting another attorney to handle the cases, taxpayers realize a savings of 88% in billable hours," Gibbons said. "We've seen the tremendous cost of legal fees that can accumulate in cases handled outside of my office. This contract ensures the County receives the quality legal services they need at an extremely reasonable cost."

Between July 1, 2010, and July 31, 2011, the Appellate Prosecutor handled 62 appeal briefs with 1,385 attorney hours worked. In addition, the Appellate Prosecutor handled 27 conflict of interest cases, with 452 attorney hours worked. If these cases had been charged at the contractual attorney rate of \$140 per hour, the services provided by the Appellate Prosecutor would cost the County \$257,215.

In addition to handling appeals and conflict of interest cases, the Appellate Prosecutor's office also provides free or low-cost training to county prosecutors to meet their mandatory CLE requirements, tracks legislation and lobbies on behalf of Illinois prosecutors, disseminates legislative updates on ever-changing Illinois laws, and provides useful publications such as the Uniform Complaint Book. The Appellate Prosecutor's office also funds a \$40,000 grant for partial funding of a prosecutor to handle drug cases.

"While we spend \$30,000 per year on this contract, we actually receive \$40,000 in grant funding from the office to offset the salary of an Assistant State's Attorney to specialize in drug cases," Gibbons said. "This is clearly a win-win situation for taxpayers."

Gibbons' office released the cost-savings figures in response to a Madison County Board Member's request for more information about the contract. A memo outlining the data was distributed to the members of the Board earlier this month.

"I applaud the diligence of the County Board in examining expenditures to ensure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely," Gibbons said. "In this case, the facts clearly demonstrate the valuable role the Appellate Prosecutor plays for my office and the tremendous savings this agreement provides for citizens of Madison County."

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