



Corporation Counsel BUDGET PRESENTATION

FY 2023-2024

➤ CORPORATION COUNSEL

JAMES N. TALLBERG

- Jim is the Managing Partner of Karsten & Tallberg, LLC, a five-lawyer firm dedicated to the representation of public entities and officials. Since 1996, Jim and the members of his firm have represented a majority of the 169 municipalities in Connecticut. Since 2020, he has also served as the Town Attorney for the Town of Enfield.
- He is a former Chairman of the Rocky Hill Charter Revision Commission and serves as a Hearing Officer by appointment of the Rocky Hill Town Manager. He is a member of the Federal Bar Council, Connecticut Bar Association, Hartford County Bar Association, Defense Research Institute, Connecticut Defense Lawyers Association, and serves as an elected member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys (“CAMA”).
- Jim is a graduate of the University of Connecticut School of Law, with honors, and Southern Connecticut State University. He was admitted to the Connecticut Bar in 1996, and is also admitted to the United States District Court for the District of Connecticut, the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.



➤ ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL ROBERT P. FITZGERALD



- Robert serves as Assistant Corporation Counsel. Prior to this role he was an associate with Howard, Kohn, Sprague & FitzGerald, LLP, the oldest continually operating law firm in the U.S. Attorney Fitzgerald's practice was primarily focused on civil defense litigation.
- He is a Barrister of The Oliver Ellsworth American Inn of Court, a member of the Connecticut Bar Association, and a member of the Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys.
- Robert graduated from Quinnipiac University School of Law with honors and Westfield State University with honors. He is admitted to practice in Connecticut and the United States District Court for the District of CT.

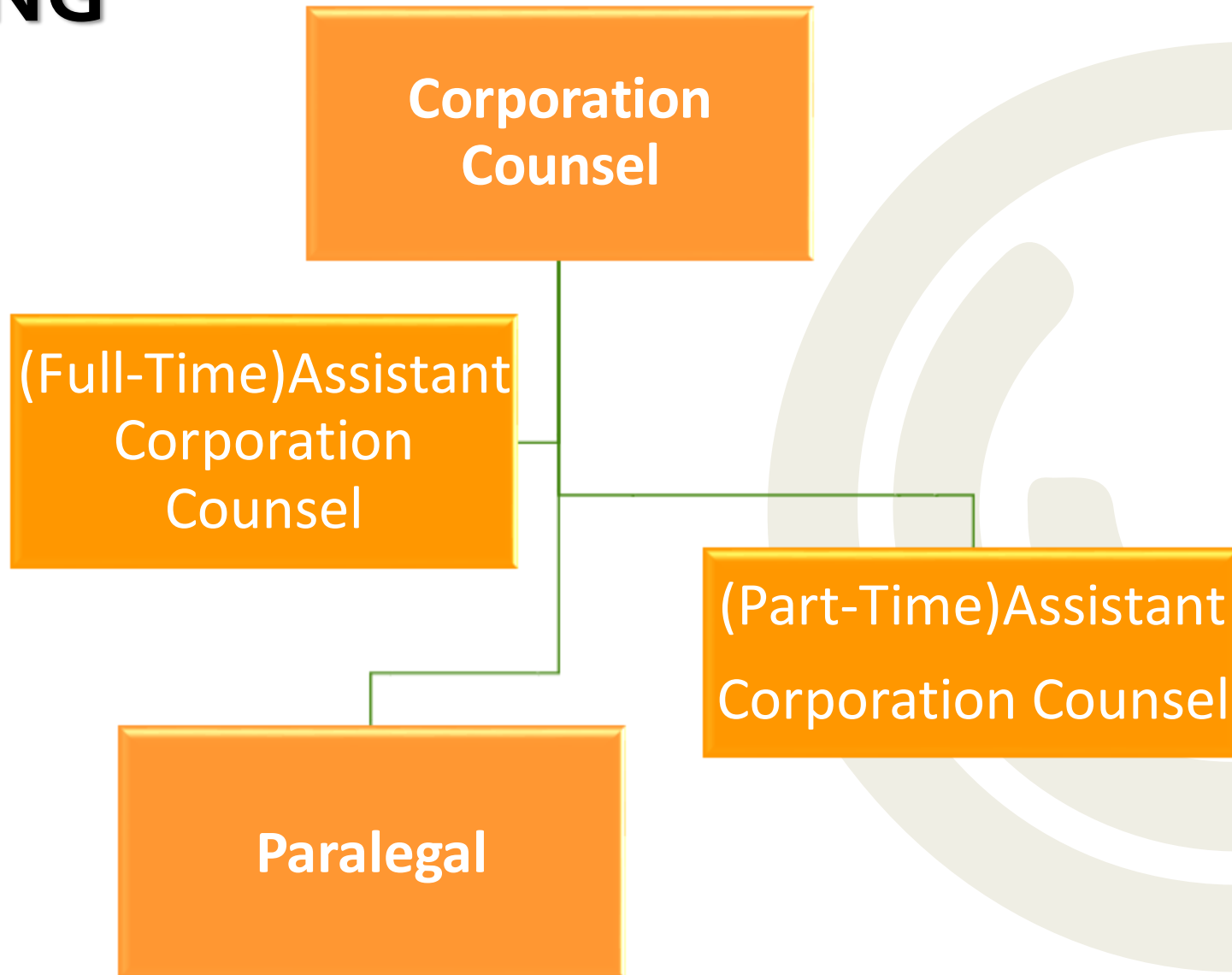


➤ PART-TIME ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL RICHARD P. GENTILE

- Prior to joining the Corporation Counsel's office, Rich was legal counsel to Hartford Financial Products and Vice-President and Director of Government Affairs for Trumbull Services Company (part of The Hartford Financial Services Group, Inc.), a partner in the Hartford law firm of Danaher, Tedford, Lagnese & Neal, P.C. and an associate at Carter, Ledyard & Milburn in New York.
- He has served the Town as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen (1989-1991), a member of the East Hartford Town Council (1991-1993), Town Council Chairman and Deputy Mayor (1993-1997), Chairman of the Town's Redevelopment Agency (2000-2005) and as a member of various boards and commissions. A former member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys, Rich is currently a Justice of the Peace and the Town's Harbormaster.
- Rich graduated from Columbia College (A.B., 1981) and The Fordham University School of Law (J.D. 1984). He is admitted to practice in New York, Connecticut, The Southern District of New York, The District of Connecticut and the United States Supreme Court.



➤ STAFFING



➤ DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION & SERVICES



The Corporation Counsel's office serves as the Town's legal advisor. The office works closely with all departments of Town government in providing legal representation with respect to the rights and responsibilities of Town departments, the Town Council, the Board of Education and appointed Boards and Commissions.



➤ DEPARTMENT DESCRIPTION & SERVICES

- The Corporation Counsel's Office acts as the legal advocate for the Town in all actions, suits, or proceedings brought by or against it or any of its departments, officers, agencies, boards or commissions.
- The Corporation Counsel's office drafts and/or reviews all third party contracts, comments on new or revised Town Ordinances, routinely advises boards and commissions including Planning and Zoning, the Zoning Board of Appeals and the Inland-Wetlands Agency and is responsible for legal work associated with the conveyance or acquisition of real estate.



➤ ACHIEVEMENTS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Representative Accomplishments:

- Recruitment of full-time Assistant Corporation Counsel
- Negotiate the acquisition and sale of numerous properties including Church Corners Inn located at 860 Main Street, Burnside Avenue redevelopment property to Habitat for Humanity.
- Development and tax agreement that will foster the creation of 400+ market-rate apartments at the former Showcase Cinemas site.
- The acquisition of Applegate Lane.
- Adoption of the Silver Lane Redevelopment Plan.
- Series of Easements along Silver Lane to enable construction of sidewalks in the area.
- Finalized and completed demolition of 21 Bodwell Street and 1030 Tolland Street.
- Negotiated contract for municipal solid waste and recyclables disposal with Murphy Road Recycling.
- Complete Tax Lien sales for 2022.
- Negotiated contract for Town Hall Renovation and began the renovating.
- Work with Town Council appointed Charter Revision Commission to answer questions and provide suggested language changes.
- Manage numerous personnel injury, labor and general claims on behalf of the Town and its Boards and Commissions.

➤ BY THE NUMBERS



**Closed Tax Lien Sales
\$650,000 + in revenue**



**Drafted or reviewed,
negotiated & approved
excess of 75 contracts per year**



**Resolved multiple auto
and general liability claims**



**Provide advice re
numerous pandemic
related matters**



**Managed several code &
ordinance enforcement actions**

➤ NEW INITIATIVES

Review General Contract Terms and Conditions with those most likely to be purchasing goods/services to help them understand the issues to look for when assessing a contract.

We are making continued efforts to handle more litigation in house.



➤ BUDGET CHANGES

Org	Object	Description	Reason	\$ Change
G2200	60110	Permanent Services	Assistant Corporation Counsel Transitions	(\$4,906.00)



THANK YOU!
