

**Committees:**

House Finance Committee

•  
Legislative Budget &  
Audit

•  
House Ways and Means

•  
Finance Subcommittee

Chair of:

Alaska Court System

Department of Law

Health and Social Services

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



*Serving Midtown,  
University, and  
East Anchorage  
neighborhoods*

## REPRESENTATIVE ANDY JOSEPHSON

**These items do not formally commit funding in any bill and will not be voted on by the subcommittee membership (unlike the amendments and budget action items).**

**They are suggestions from the Chair of Department of Law House Finance Subcommittee about items outside of the subcommittee's purview but related to the Department of Law budget.**

Additional Department of Law Recommendations:

1. Reject the \$4 million multi-year appropriation requested by the Department of Law Civil Division.

Reasoning-

- It is unlikely based on the amount spent thus far in FY 22 that additional money will be needed prior to the end of FY 23.
- It would be more appropriate for the department to utilize the existing \$4 million appropriation in whole prior to requesting additional funding.
- These funds can be better used in FY 23 to support recruitment efforts and retention bonuses for department staff.

2. Seek additional legal guidance prior to appropriation of the \$495,000 needed to pay settlement costs for the *Blanford v Dunleavy* case (FY22 Supplemental Request) .

Reasoning-

- It is unclear whether the State of Alaska has an obligation to pay for this settlement or whether costs associated with settling this case should fall to the public officials found to be personally liable.
- Whether the Department of Law acted in the best financial interest of the state when entering into this settlement agreement.
- There are conflicting legal analyses of how and whether settlement expenses should be paid.

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