

CITY OF OAKLAND



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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

OAKLAND CITY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

Deputy City Attorney V General & Complex Litigation Division (Defense)

Salary Range: \$156,458.77 – \$192,085.81 annually
(Position and Salary will be based upon experience)

Recruitment Opens: January 15, 2019

Deadline to Apply: Open Until Filled

The City Attorney's Office seeks a well-qualified, highly motivated attorney to serve as Deputy City Attorney V (DCA V) and supervise attorneys in the General and Complex Litigation Division (Defense).

The ideal candidate will have substantial and significant litigation experience and expertise. Experience in supervising attorneys, handling general administrative matters, and managing outside counsel also is desirable.

Agency Description

The City Attorney's Office provides legal advice and counsel to the City and City departments and agencies in areas including but not limited to public contracting, land use, real estate, housing, public works, parks and recreation, health and welfare, library, police, fire and various other public services, personnel, elections, conflicts of interest, municipal finance, retirement, housing and economic development. Services include negotiating and drafting and advising regarding development agreements, drafting and reviewing contracts, legislation and other documents, and providing litigation services in the defense of ordinances and other administrative actions and in specialized areas such as probate, tax and bankruptcy. Additionally, the City Attorney's Office is legal counsel for the City Council, Council committees, Mayor, City Administrator, City Auditor, City boards and commissions, various City-wide task forces and City agencies and departments.

Attorneys in the General and Complex Litigation Division advocate for the City's interests in claims and lawsuits filed against the City, its officers, employees and agencies. The lawsuits are filed in state or federal court and include but are not limited to high dollar personal injury and employment cases, complex civil rights actions, breach of contract, personnel actions, eminent domain, alleged constitutional violations, police use of force, disability, race, sex, age discrimination and inverse condemnation.

A working knowledge of municipal law basics, such as the Brown Act, the Political Reform Act and the Public Records Act is a plus. The ability to quickly develop proficiency in new areas of law and general municipal law is essential, and the ability to work effectively in a diverse environment also is essential.

This is an “at will” position that is exempt from the provisions of the City of Oakland Civil Service Rules. Incumbents serve at the pleasure of the City Attorney.

Deputy City Attorneys V are represented by the Deputy City Attorney V and Special Counsel Association of the International Federation of Professional & Technical Engineers, Local 21.

Job Description

Duties may include but are not limited to:

- Providing advice and guidance and reviewing work of the attorneys in the Division.
- Handling supervisory administrative matters including allocating work assignments among supervised attorneys; preparing attorney performance reviews, and attending meetings with senior City staff, City Attorney management and other attorney supervisors.
- Attending meetings with high-level elected and appointed City officials.
- Directly providing advice and counsel for lawsuits, serving as co-counsel or lead counsel with supervised attorneys on projects, lawsuits and other matters. The supervising attorney will have his/her own projects/matters/cases/lawsuits for which s/he is responsible in addition to supervising the supervised attorneys.
- Performing and/or reviewing legal research, interpreting and applying laws and court decisions.
- Providing and/or supervising and reviewing legal advice related to claims and lawsuits.
- Supervising and/or handling all aspects of litigation.
- Keeping the Special Counsel apprised of key issues and developments; anticipating, foreseeing and planning strategy, discovery and trial preparation.
- Ensuring coordination with and keeping the relevant Departments/Agencies apprised of developments and upcoming hearings, decisions and closed session presentations and other matters.
- Supervising and/or acting in an advisory capacity at meetings of the City Council, City boards and commissions.
- Reviewing staff reports; writing City Council reports for open and closed sessions.
- Developing expertise in a particular area of municipal law.
- Overseeing outside counsel.
- Exercising sound judgment and clearly explaining legal advice to attorneys and lay people and defending legal analyses.
- Responding to questions posed by members of the public.
- May serve as counsel to City Council committees and City boards, or commissions.
- Attending evening and late night meetings on matters and issues involving lawsuits, claims and other matters that the General and Complex Litigation Division handles.

The City Attorney may assign the selected attorney to new, additional or different duties or practice areas in either litigation or transactional work or to a non-supervisory role in the future. The DCA V may receive general supervision from a Special Counsel, Chief Assistant City Attorney and/or the City Attorney. Attorneys in this diverse and exciting Office frequently work collaboratively with other attorneys, and other City Departments and other agencies on a wide variety of issues.

Minimum Qualifications

The following qualifications are guidelines as the appointing authority has broad discretion in filling positions in this classification.

- One year of increasingly responsible work experience comparable to a Deputy City Attorney IV in the City of Oakland,
- or -
- Ten years of professional experience in relevant areas of law.
 - Candidates must possess excellent knowledge of federal and state court procedures, including local rules. Excellent writing and oral argument skills are needed.

Education

- The incumbent must be a graduate of an accredited law school.

License or Certificate

- A member in good standing of the California State Bar.
- Incumbents in this position are expected to operate automotive vehicles in the performance of assigned duties. Due to assignments and hours of work, public transportation may not be an efficient method for traveling to required locations. Selected individual will be required to maintain a valid California Driver's License during City employment or demonstrate the ability to travel to required locations in a timely manner.

Desirable Skills

- Language skills, especially in Spanish, Cantonese and/or Mandarin.
- Working knowledge of municipal, state and federal laws, ordinances and codes affecting City government.

Ability to:

- Interpret and apply various statutes, ordinances and case law.
- Conduct research on legal problems and prepare sound legal opinions/advice.
- Analyze and prepare a wide variety of legal documents.
- Handle jury trials.
- Present cases in court and administrative proceedings.
- Handle stressful or sensitive situations with tact and diplomacy.
- Communicate effectively in both oral and written form with City officials, representatives of outside agencies and the public.
- Complete varied assignments within a narrow time frame.

- Establish and maintain effective work relationships with those contacted in the performance of required duties.
- Inspire confidence and respect for legal advice.
- Skillfully and professionally present legal advice to clients including the elected and high level appointed officials.
- Interact with other in-house attorneys as part of a team, and occasionally as team leader, to provide the best product for clients of the City Attorney's Office.

Benefits

The City of Oakland offers an excellent salary and benefits package. The benefits package includes:

- Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) retirement.
- Health plan fully or partially-paid, depending on your plan choice.
- Dental plan and orthodontics for employee and dependents.
- Vision plan for employee and dependents.
- Life insurance.
- Management leave, vacation leave, sick leave and holidays.
- Deferred compensation plan.

HOW TO APPLY

Submit a completed City of Oakland employment application, current résumé and the attached supplemental questionnaire **by email** to:

City of Oakland, Office of the City Attorney
One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor
Oakland, California 94612

Attention: resumes@oaklandcityattorney.org

To obtain an application package, you may visit the Office of the City Attorney, One Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, 6th Floor, Oakland, CA or the City Attorney's website at: www.oaklandcityattorney.org

Final Filing Date: Open Until Filled

The City of Oakland is an Equal Opportunity / ADA employer

Supplemental Questionnaire

Deputy City Attorney V General and Complex Litigation Division (Defense)

The purpose of this supplemental questionnaire is to assess your qualifications, training and experience in specific job related areas. Your answers to these questions along with your completed application will be used to select the most suitably qualified candidates.

Applications submitted without a completed supplemental questionnaire will not be considered.

Respond to each question fully, describing your specific experience and accomplishments. Responses must be legible and typewritten response are preferred.

1. Explain and summarize why you are interested in this position and why you believe you are well qualified for the position.
2. Fully describe your litigation experience, including any trial preparation and trial and law and motion and appellate and supervisory experience, serving as first chair or co-counsel on cases. Provide examples of matters/projects you have handled and include in your answer the types of clients, the nature and scope of issues as well as your role advising clients.
3. Fully describe the five most complex motions you have drafted and/or argued, and the outcomes. Provide examples of matters/projects you have handled and include the types of clients, the nature and scope of issues as well as your role advising clients, including relevant public agency experience.
4. Please list the judges, justices, or other judicial officer(s) before whom you have appeared.
5. Fully describe your appellate experience over the past five years.
6. Provide at least one, but no more than three, writing samples where you were the primary author that would be samples of any of the experiences described in Questions 1 and 2. Redact any identifying information if necessary.

CERTIFICATION OF APPLICANT

I understand that all information provided herein is subject to verification, and is true to the best of my knowledge.

Signature

Date