



AARONSON
DICKERSON
COHN &
LANZONE

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

Proposal to Provide Outside Counsel Services



Kai Ruess, Partner

Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzone
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San Carlos, CA 94070
(650) 593-3117 ext. 215
State Bar No. 278093

Proposal

In response to a request from the County Counsel's Office, I am pleased to submit this proposal to provide Outside Counsel Services to assist the Mendocino County Sheriff resolve an on-going dispute with the County Board of Supervisors. My firm, the Law Offices of Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzone ("ADC&L"), was established 70 years ago and has specialized in public and municipal law since its formation. ADC&L currently represents the City of San Carlos, City of Foster City, Town of Woodside, Coastside Fire Protection District, Pooled Liability Assurance Network Joint Powers Authority (PLAN JPA), San Mateo County Telecommunications Authority, Redwood City Business Improvement District, Central County Fire Department, Fire Net 6, and South Bayside Waste Management Authority. Attorneys at ADC&L also currently provide special counsel services to the cities of Palo Alto and Mountain View.

I have specialized in public law since joining ADC&L and being admitted to the State Bar in 2011. In addition to serving ADC&L's retained public clients, I have assisted private clients on transactional, employment, and real estate matters. I have also provided harassment prevention training and been retained to conduct workplace investigations by cities, school districts, fire departments, non-profits and other employers in San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, Marin County, Contra Costa County, Monterey County, and Nevada County. I have attached my résumé, which further details my experience.

Please let me know if you have questions or need additional information. Thank you for considering this proposal and I look forward to speaking with you about it.



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Fee Proposal

If retained, ADC&L will provide legal services, as directed, at the rate of \$300 per attorney hour worked. I review all billing statements before they are issued to ensure that the amount charged is appropriate. The statement for fees is simply the product of the hours worked, including travel, multiplied by the hourly rate.

Bills will be sent to the County monthly. If payment is not received within 30 days of the billing date, ADC&L reserves the right to charge interest on the unpaid balance at the rate 10% per month and to terminate our services.

Firm Background

The Law Offices of Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzone was founded in 1949 by Michael Aaronson and Melvin E. Cohn. In April 1956, Melvin E. Cohn became City Attorney for the City of San Carlos, beginning the firm's long-standing municipal law practice. In October 1963, he was appointed by then-Governor Edmund G. (Pat) Brown to a judgeship on the San Mateo County Superior Court. In 1983, after 20 years of distinguished service on the Bench, Judge Cohn retired and rejoined the firm as of counsel.

In September 1957, Kenneth M. Dickerson joined the firm and eventually became the City Attorney for the cities of Belmont and Foster City and the District Counsel for the San Mateo County Harbor District.

In 1970, Robert J. Lanzone joined the firm. During his career, he served as the City Attorney for the cities of San Carlos, Half Moon Bay, and Pacifica and as Town Attorney for the Town of Woodside.

In the 1980's, the firm expanded with the additions of Jean B. Savaree in 1985 and Gregory J. Rubens in 1989. Ms. Savaree and Mr. Rubens carried on the firm's tradition of municipal work, as Ms. Savaree is the current City Attorney for the City of Foster City and Town Attorney for the Town of Woodside, and Mr. Rubens serves as the City Attorney for the City of San Carlos.

I joined the firm in 2011 and immediately began working as a deputy for all the firm's municipal clients. I currently serve as Senior Deputy to those clients, and through that position have provided the full array of city attorney services. In the absence of the City Attorney, I have acted as the City Attorney for each of the firm's municipal clients.

In 2012, Camas J. Steinmetz joined the firm and now provides land use, CEQA, and real estate law expertise to the firm's municipal clients.

Although no longer a partner, Robert J. Lanzone remains with ADC&L as of counsel. The firm was excited to recently welcome Joan A. Borger, former City Attorney to the City of Sunnyvale, also as of counsel. Two of ADC&L's former attorneys now serve as in-house counsel to the City of San Bruno and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

As a small municipal law firm, ADC&L understands the issues that are shared by public entities in the Bay Area, but also appreciates the unique aspects of each community. ADC&L prides itself on delivering the best quality legal service while recognizing the budgetary challenges that public clients face. The firm strives to maintain competitive rates and to work efficiently and effectively on behalf of its clients. ADC&L's long tenures with its municipal clients demonstrate the value that it delivers.

ADC&L has been consistently providing city attorney services since its founding partner, Melvin E. Cohn, became the San Carlos City Attorney in 1956. Since that time, the firm has provided city attorney services to six different cities and temporary special counsel services to several others, such as the cities of San Bruno, Redwood City, Burlingame, Mountain View, and Palo Alto and the towns of Hillsborough and Portola Valley. ADC&L currently represents the following public agencies:

- City of San Carlos
- Town of Woodside
- City of Foster City (representation will end August 1, 2021)
- Coastside Fire Protection District
- Central County Fire Department
- South Bayside Waste Management Authority
- Pooled Liability Assurance Network Joint Powers Authority (PLAN JPA)
- San Mateo County Telecommunications Authority
- Redwood City Business Improvement District

Kai Ruess

State Bar No. 278093

J.D., University of California, Hastings College of the Law, 2011

B.A., University of California, Davis, with Honors, 2007

WORK EXPERIENCE

Attorney/Partner

Aaronson, Dickerson, Cohn & Lanzone, A.P.C.

August 2011 – present

Current Work

- Senior Deputy City Attorney for the City of Foster City
- Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Woodside
- Deputy City Attorney for the City of San Carlos
- Deputy Counsel to several other public entity clients, including the Central County Fire Department and the Coastside Fire Protection District
- Counsel for the Copper Valley Community Services District
- Private civil practice, representing clients in San Mateo, Santa Clara, and San Francisco Counties

Previous Work

- Deputy Counsel for South Bayside Waste Management Authority
- Deputy Counsel for the San Mateo County Harbor District
- Special Counsel for the City of Redwood City
- Retained as an investigator for several public agencies, including the Burlingame School District, Millbrae School District, Redwood City Elementary School District, San Bruno Park School District, City of San Rafael, City of Campbell, City of Watsonville, College of Marin, San Mateo Community College District, Nevada County, Contra Costa County Mosquito and Vector Control District, Monterey One Water, and San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District

Adjunct Faculty Member

University of California, Hastings College of the Law

August 2016 – May 2018

- Instructed first-year Legal Writing & Research and Moot Court courses

Summer Law Clerk

City of Burlingame, CA

June 2010 – August 2010

- Assisted the City Attorney in advising City officials on legal issues and potential liabilities
- Drafted memoranda and briefs regarding City policies and applicable law
- Strategized and participated in mediation on a public works project dispute

Summer Legal Intern

City of San Mateo, CA

June 2009 – August 2009

- Researched legal questions posed by City departments and authored memoranda to staff and City Council
- Prepared motions and other legal filings for on-going litigation

Case Manager

Travelers Insurance

June 2007 – August 2008

- Managed worker's compensation claims
- Made determinations on claim compensability and furnished benefits to claimants

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Member, League of California Cities Municipal Finance Committee
- Former Member, League of California Cities FPPC Committee
- Former San Carlos Chamber of Commerce Board Member
- 2010-11 U.C. Hastings Moot Court Student of the Year
- Regional Best Brief, 2010 National Moot Court Competition
- Former Executive Production Editor, Hastings Science and Technology Law Journal
- Former Finance Committee Member, Cal Aggie Alumni Association
- Member, Phi Beta Kappa Society