



# CITY ATTORNEY





## THE COMMUNITY

Located in California's great Central Valley, Stockton has grown from a community with rich agricultural roots to an urban destination with a rich arts and culture scene, fine dining, shopping, sports, recreation, and family activities. With a multi-ethnic and multi-cultural population of over 320,000 residents, Stockton is the 11th largest city in California. It is centrally located 60 miles east of the San Francisco Bay Area and 45 miles south of Sacramento, offering an easy and scenic drive to numerous world-famous attractions such as Lake Tahoe, Yosemite National Park, and the California Coast. In addition, Stockton has many local natural resources, including the San Joaquin Delta.

The community has a long tradition of established families who have called Stockton home for generations and many new residents have chosen Stockton as the community in which to live and raise their families. The City has a number of beautiful residential neighborhoods along waterways and tree-lined streets, and it offers an affordable cost of living with home prices about one-third the price of Bay Area homes. With its comfortable California lifestyle, Stockton is enriched by the pleasures of metropolitan living without the congestion, overcrowding, and expense. Stockton is the seat of San Joaquin County, where wine grapes have recently become one of the leading crops, transforming the region into one of California's premium wine districts. The robust and thriving Port of Stockton has direct waterway access to the San Francisco Bay and provides domestic and international distribution of dry and bulk cargo, containerized cargo, and steel, handling ships from all over the world.

Home to several well-known higher education institutions, including the University of the Pacific, California State University – Stanislaus,

Stockton Center, and San Joaquin Delta Community College, Stockton offers a variety of private and vocational schools. Year-round events and activities make Stockton a destination for venues and attractions such as the award-winning Stockton Flavor Fest, Annual Jazz Brubeck Festival, the Haggin Museum, Bob Hope (Fox California) Theatre, Children's Museum, and the Stockton Symphony. The 10,000-seat multi-purpose, waterfront Stockton Arena is home to the Stockton Kings – the G-League affiliate of the NBA Sacramento Kings. The adjacent 5,000-seat Stockton Banner Island Ballpark, frequently ranked as one of the nation's top minor league ballparks, is home to the Stockton Ports single-A minor league baseball team - affiliate to the major league Athletics.

## THE ORGANIZATION

The City of Stockton is a full-service, Charter city with a Council/Manager form of government. The Mayor is elected citywide, and the six Council members are nominated and elected within their respective districts. The City is one of the largest employers in Stockton with 1,790 full-time employees and has a FY 2024-2025 annual budget of \$955 million.

The City Council directly appoints the positions of City Manager, City Attorney, City Auditor, and City Clerk. All other departments report to the City Manager, including Administrative Services, Human Resources, Community Services (Library and Recreation), Economic Development, Public Works, Information Technology, Municipal Utilities, Fire, Police, and Community Development. Stockton's organizational culture is based on high performance, trust, and collaboration, and the executive management team is characterized by highly skilled, experienced leaders.



## THE DEPARTMENT

The Stockton City Attorney's Office delivers professional, ethical, timely, cost-effective, and quality legal advice with an exceptional level of customer service to the City Council, City Manager, all City Departments, Boards, Commissions, and Committees, to support the City's goals while minimizing risk and costs to the taxpayers. The

City Attorney's Office operates with a team of eight attorneys, one paralegal, one executive assistant, two full-time legal secretaries, and one part-time legal secretary, and is divided into two divisions. One division is primarily focused on litigation and code enforcement. The second division is primarily focused on advisory and employment-related matters.

The Office supports a significant volume of litigation, criminal prosecution, and code enforcement matters and expects this activity will continue. The Office works with City departments to find and implement solutions to high-priority issues like crime reduction, workforce development, expansion of youth programming, program and resource availability targeted toward community wellbeing, homelessness, including the provision of affordable housing, and allocation of economic development efforts to develop business incentives and engage private employers to increase employment opportunities consistent with the Council's priority goals.

## THE POSITION

The role of the City Attorney is to provide legal representation and give legal advice to a broad array of city officials. Most importantly, the City Attorney advises and represents the City Council and all City Councilmembers with respect to their official city activities. The City Attorney has an attorney-client relationship with the City Council acting as a body; she does not have an attorney-client relationship with any one Councilmember to the exclusion of the other Councilmembers.

Many citizens believe that the City Attorney serves as the attorney for the entire community, rather than the attorney working solely for the municipal corporation known as the City of Stockton. However, the City Attorney works for citizens only indirectly through the City Council acting as a body. The City Attorney has no attorney-client relationship with the citizens at large.



## THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate will be of the highest integrity and genuinely committed to developing a strong customer service ethic, responsive to organizational needs, and open and honest in all internal and external relationships. The desired candidate will be known for the use of innovative, forward-thinking, and creative methods in planning for workforce development. Candidates must be capable of managing extraordinarily complex issues in the context of an overall management team and be action-oriented and passionate about change and innovation. Candidates for this position should be exceptional leaders, capable of planning and directing the services of the City Attorney's Office and coordinating efforts with other divisions and City departments within a sophisticated, fast-paced environment.



## MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

- Possession of a Juris Doctorate from an accredited college or university.
- Must be licensed to practice in all the courts of California and prior to appointment must have professional legal experience in the State of California for at least seven years, including three years of experience in a local government setting.
- Must possess a valid California driver's license.
- Must be a current licensed member, active and in good standing with the California State Bar.



## COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS

The annual salary range for the **City Attorney** is **\$278,536.82 - \$327,690.38**; Placement within this range is dependent upon qualifications.

The City of Stockton also offers an attractive Benefits Package including:

- **Retirement:** California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) with a 2% @ 62 formula for employees new to CalPERS. Employees considered "classic" members receive 2% @ 60 benefit formula (with less than six months break in service from another CalPERS agency).
- **Vacation:** Up to 200 hours of vacation per year.
- **Health Benefits:** The City pays a significant portion of the premium for medical/hospitalization, dental/orthodontia, vision, and prescription coverage for employees and dependents. The City offers nine medical plans and two dental plan choices.
- **Holidays:** 13 fixed and 1 floating per year.
- **Sick Leave:** 96 hours per year
- **Deferred Compensation:** A deferred compensation plan is available at the employee's option.
- **Life Insurance:** Policy value of \$50,000.
- **Work Schedule:** City of Stockton 9/80 work schedule - 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Mondays through Thursdays; 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Fridays, with alternating Fridays off.

## APPLICATION PROCESS AND RECRUITMENT SCHEDULE

**Final Filing Date: February 28, 2026**

Submitted applications should reflect years and months of positions held in the work experience section. An updated resume, cover letter and a copy of our highest degree earned is required to be attached to your online application.

**For additional information please contact:**

ANDRELYN PETATE

SENIOR HUMAN RESOURCES ANALYST

(209)937-8233



[Recruitment@stocktonca.gov](mailto:Recruitment@stocktonca.gov)

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