



COUNTY COUNSEL

\$145,812 - \$177,228

Plus Excellent Benefits

Apply by

September 12, 2021

(First Review, Open Until Filled)

PROTHMAN



WHY APPLY?



Located just 4 hours north of Los Angeles and 4 hours west of Las Vegas, Nevada, on the southeastern border of California, Inyo County encompasses everything from beautiful snowy peaks to ancient

desert playas. Vast elevation differences, wide-open spaces, and a four-season climate allows Inyo County to host a broad range of outdoor activities including trout fishing, hiking, alpine climbing, hunting, hang gliding, road and mountain biking, backcountry skiing, snowshoeing, bird watching, rock climbing, hot springing, off-roading, and golfing. It is no wonder that Outside Magazine just included Bishop (the County's only incorporated city) as one of the "The 25 Best Towns of 2017."

This is an excellent opportunity for a talented public-sector legal professional to play a key role in enhancing a stable organization with dedicated employees. If you possess strong interpersonal and leadership skills, have an eye for opportunities to improve public services, and a passion for pursuing them, this is the right position for you!

THE REGION

Home to over 22 official wilderness areas, Inyo County is surrounded by the 1.9 million-acre Inyo National Forest, which features over 400 lakes and 1,100 miles of rivers and streams, providing world-class trout fishing. The entire area boasts some of the wildest and most beautiful terrain in the world, including the largest national park in the "Lower 48" – Death Valley – which covers nearly 3.4 million acres of land east of the Owens Valley. Yosemite National Park is less than an hour drive, and Sequoia Kings Canyon National Park abuts the County's south-western boundary.

Just an hour and a half away from Independence, the Inyo County Seat, and 45 minutes from Bishop, the County's largest population center, Mammoth Mountain is considered to be one of California's best resorts for skiing and snowboarding, with plenty of cross-country and snowmobiling trails nearby. The Mountain offers 3,500 acres of skiable area with 150 unique runs, accessed by 28 chairlifts.

For residents who prefer the heat, Death Valley's four-diamond Furnace Creek Resort offers the lowest elevation 18-hole course in the world as the terrain here sinks to a staggering 282 feet below sea level. Death Valley is visited annually by more than a million visitors and adventure seekers, even in summertime when the park records some of the hottest temperatures on Earth. In stark contrast, Inyo County is also home to Mount Whitney, the highest peak in the Lower 48 states, towering at an elevation of 14,505 feet just two hours west of Death Valley. The County also claims nine other 14,000-foot peaks, including White Mountain Peak, home to the Ancient Bristlecone Pine Forest and the oldest living things on Earth. Mount Whitney offers a variety of camping, fishing, hiking, beautiful nature viewing, and even winter climbing for experienced mountaineers.



THE COUNTY

Home to a population of approximately 18,500 residents, Inyo County is the second-largest county by area in California, covering 10,140 square miles. Inyo County is governed by a five-member Board of Supervisors serving overlapping four-year terms. The County employs approximately 435 staff and has a Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget of \$130.5 Million, including a \$62.4 Million General Fund Budget.

County departments are led by a combination of elected and appointed officials and include: Administration, Agricultural Commissioner, Auditor-Controller; Assessor, Child Support Services, Clerk-Recorder, Coroner, County Counsel, District Attorney, Farm Advisor, Environmental Health, Health & Human Services, Planning, Probation, Public Administrator-Public Guardian, Public Works/Road, Sheriff/Jail, Treasurer-Tax Collector, and Water.

THE DEPARTMENT & POSITION

Operating with four (4) FTEs, on a budget of one million dollars, the County Counsel's office provides legal representation and advice to the Board of Supervisors, County officers, departments, commissions and other entities within County government. Legal services are also provided to some schools, special districts, joint powers authorities and other entities outside County government. The department provides services internally to county staff and does not generally provide direct public services. The department has offices in Independence and Bishop.



Working under the general direction of the five-member Board of Supervisors, the County Counsel plans, organizes, directs, manages, conducts, and reviews the services of the County Counsel's Office, serving as legal advisor for the Board of Supervisors, all County departments, special districts, and various boards and commissions. The County Counsel ensures that decisions are made, and policies formulated with an appreciation for possible legal consequences and represents the County and local government entities in litigation.



OPPORTUNITIES & CHALLENGES

1. Inyo County has a unique relationship with the City of Los Angeles, in particular, with the City's Department of Water and Power. The relationship was forged over many decades and arises from the City's ownership of the vast majority of land in the Owens Valley and its exportation of surface and groundwater from the County through aqueducts. There are settlement agreements, decisions, and documents that govern the entities' relationships, and the County has multiple ongoing projects to mitigate past environmental damage.
2. The County has five federally recognized Indian Tribes, each with its own tribal lands and government. The Tribes are active participants in local affairs and represent a significant minority of Inyo County's residents. It will be important for the candidate to possess or quickly acquire a working knowledge of Indian Law.
3. There are two groundwater sustainability agencies that were created pursuant to California's Sustainable Groundwater Management Act (SGMA) operating in the County and in which the County is either a party to the governing JPA document with representation on the agency board and/or provides staff including legal staff.
4. With the passage of Proposition 64 and based on responses to advisory measures, the County has a relatively new system for permitting and regulating various forms of cannabis businesses. It will be important for the candidate to have a working knowledge regarding cannabis regulation in California in general and to get up to speed on Inyo County's regulations.
5. In response to public interest and the advent of widespread "airBNB" types of rentals, the County adopted regulations and permit requirements, which are still evolving, in response to conditions on the ground and feedback from constituents. Getting up to speed on County regulations and laws regarding transient rentals is essential.
6. Inyo County has seen an uptick in homelessness. There is also a shortage of rental housing and a booming real estate market, which may be related. The candidate will need to get up to speed on the issue and provide legal advice on proposed projects to address it.

To learn more about each of these opportunities and challenges, please click [here](#).

IDEAL CANDIDATE PROFILE

Education and Experience:

Any combination of education, skills and experience that demonstrate an ability to excel in the position may be considered. Typical demonstrations of such education and experience might include five (5) years of broad and extensive professional civil legal experience, including experience in providing legal services for a government agency and two (2) years in a supervisory or management capacity. Candidates must have current membership in the State Bar of California, and have possession of, or the ability to obtain a valid California Driver's License.

Necessary Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

- Knowledge of the principles of Civil, Constitutional, Juvenile, Labor, Land Use, and Administrative Law.
- Knowledge of California codes and statutes applicable to the functions and services of government agencies, judicial procedures and rules of evidence, and legal research methods.
- Computer legal research capabilities.
- Budget development and control, and knowledge of the principles of project planning, development, coordination, and direction.
- The ability to plan, organize, manage, and coordinate the functions of the County Counsel Office, including providing supervision, training, and work evaluation for assigned staff.
- The ability to perform the most complex professional civil legal work, writing and legal research, analyze facts, and apply legal precedents and principles to civil cases.
- Skill in preparing and presenting cases at all levels of the court system and directing the preparation of legal cases.
- The ability to operate a computer and use appropriate software in the performance of professional legal work.

- The ability to regularly work well under pressure, meeting multiple and sometimes conflicting deadlines, and constantly demonstrate cooperative behavior with colleagues, supervisors, and customers/clients.
- The ability to make effective verbal and written presentations, and effectively represent the County Counsel's Office in responding to inquiries, providing assistance, and dealing with county departments, boards and commissions, community organizations, and other government agencies.

COMPENSATION & BENEFITS

- **\$145,812 - \$177,228 DOQ**
- This position is not at will and is appointed to a 4-year term. Negotiable notice provision if the Board chooses to not re-appoint.
- Vehicle allowance.
- CalPERS defined benefit pension plan
- Medical Insurance: County pays 80% of employees and dependents' monthly premium
- Dental & Vision Insurance
- County-paid Retiree Healthcare
- 40-hours Administrative Leave
- Paid Vacation: 10-days per year during first three years of service; 15-days per year after three years of service; and, one additional day for each year of service after 10-years to a maximum of 25-days per year.
- Flexible Leave: 5-days per year personal leave
- 11 paid holidays
- Sick Leave: 15 days per year
- Flexible Spending Account: Dependent Care & Medical Care
- Life Insurance: \$20,000
- Supplemental Life and AD&D Insurance, including spouse and children
- 457 Deferred Compensation Program
- Employee Assistance Program

**Please visit:
www.inyocounty.us**

Inyo County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **September 12, 2021** (first review, open until filled). Applications, supplemental questions, resumes and cover letters will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to **www.prothman.com** and click on "**Open Recruitments**", select "**Inyo County, CA – County Counsel**", and click "**Apply Now**", or click [here](#). Resumes, cover letters and supplemental questions can be uploaded once you have logged in.



www.prothman.com

371 NE Gilman Blvd., Ste 310
Issaquah, WA 98027
206.368.0050