



CITY ATTORNEY

City Attorney's Office
Clearwater, Florida

Annual Salary:
\$200,345 – \$320,553 DOQ



CLEARWATER
BRIGHT AND BEAUTIFUL • BAY TO BEACH

Are you an experienced municipal attorney who can provide independent legal counsel, guide complex public projects, and advise elected officials with integrity and sound judgment? **If so, apply to be the City of Clearwater's next City Attorney!**

We're looking for an exceptional, steady, and collaborative leader who is:

- Well-versed in municipal and governmental law
- Skilled in navigating land use, development, and complex legal matters
- Experienced in leading and strengthening a legal team

Clearwater – Bright and Beautiful, Bay to Beach – read on to learn more about this opportunity!



ABOUT THE COMMUNITY

Clearwater is a vibrant coastal city of 120,000 residents located on Florida's Gulf Coast in the heart of the Tampa Bay region. Internationally known for its award-winning white sand beaches, Clearwater combines a thriving tourism economy with strong residential neighborhoods and an active arts and cultural scene.

Stretching from the Gulf of Mexico to Tampa Bay, the city offers boating, fishing, dolphin watching, and waterfront recreation alongside professional spring training baseball (Philadelphia Phillies), world-class performances at Ruth Eckerd Hall, The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park, and the historic Capitol Theatre.

Historically rooted as a coastal destination community, Clearwater has evolved into a financially stable, well-managed city with strong reserves and significant regional influence. Ongoing redevelopment, hotel and mixed-use growth, and major infrastructure investments continue to shape its future.



POPULATION
~120,000



MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME
\$66,381



MEDIAN HOME VALUE
\$361,300
AVERAGE MONTHLY RENT
\$1,658

History



Tourism



GOVERNANCE & ORGANIZATION

Clearwater operates under a Council-Manager form of government. The Mayor and four City Council Members are elected at-large for four-year terms, with a limit of two consecutive terms.

The City Council appoints the City Manager and the City Attorney. The city provides a full range of municipal services including:

- Police and Fire Services
- Parks and Recreation
- Marina, Airport, and Beach Operations
- Public Works and Utilities
- Planning and Development

The city's General Fund budget is approximately \$231 million with 1,710 employees citywide.



THE JOB

The City Attorney's Office provides comprehensive legal services to the City Council, City Manager, and all departments. The office advises on municipal law, land use and development, contracts, public records, ethics, litigation management, and governance matters.

Reporting directly to the City Council, the new City Attorney will:

- Provide clear, timely, and objective legal opinions
- Advise Council on complex and sometimes controversial matters
- Strengthen litigation capacity within the department
- Guide land use, development, and infrastructure-related legal issues
- Lead and develop an 11-person legal team

The City Attorney plays a critical role in major public projects and policy direction.

[Full Job Description](#)



DEPARTMENT STRUCTURE

Divisions within the department:

- General Counsel Services
- Litigation
- Advisory & Municipal Law



EMPLOYEES

11

FULL-TIME



DEPARTMENT BUDGET

\$2.85 MILLION

KEY PROJECTS FOR 2026

- Managing complex land use and redevelopment initiatives
- Enhancing internal litigation capabilities
- Supporting major infrastructure and public-private development projects



IDEAL CANDIDATE

The ideal candidate is an experienced municipal attorney with a strong background in public sector law and governance. They demonstrate independence, ethical strength, and the courage to provide objective advice even when opinions may be difficult or unpopular. This individual is even-tempered, confident, and collaborative, working effectively with elected officials, executive leadership, and professional staff.

The successful candidate understands how to “get to yes” while protecting the city’s legal interests and maintaining public trust. They are comfortable advising on controversial issues, guiding large-scale development matters, and thinking strategically beyond immediate concerns. A servant-leader mindset, strong listening skills, and a commitment to community engagement are essential for long-term success in this role.

EXPERIENCE & QUALIFICATIONS

Required:

- Juris Doctor from an accredited law school
- Member in good standing with the Florida Bar
- Minimum eight (8) years of professional attorney experience, including at least five (5) years in public sector/governmental law
- Supervisory and leadership experience

Preferred:

- Ten (10)+ years of relevant municipal law experience
- Significant land use and development experience
- In-house government counsel experience
- Board Certification in City, County & Local Government Law



SALARY & BENEFITS

Compensation: \$200,345 – \$320,553 DOQ

Health Benefits: Comprehensive medical, dental, and vision coverage; life insurance; AFLAC; Flexible Spending Accounts; Employee Assistance Program.

Paid Leave: Negotiable leave package based on experience and contract terms.

Retirement: Participation in a 401(a) Money Purchase Plan and optional 457(b) deferred compensation plan. This position does not participate in the city pension plan.

Additional Perks: Free access to city recreational facilities; Employee Health Center; negotiable relocation assistance and executive benefits; technology allowances negotiable. The city participates in Social Security and Veteran's Preference hiring practices. Residency within city limits is not required, though Tampa Bay area residency is preferred.

Clearwater offers a competitive executive compensation and benefits package reflective of its size, complexity, and regional significance.

HOW TO APPLY

Apply Here



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The City of Clearwater is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, or disability. Applicants selected as finalists for this position will be subject to a comprehensive background check.

Public Records Notice (Florida Sunshine Law): Under Florida law, all application materials, resumes, and related documents submitted as part of this recruitment are subject to public records disclosure. Applicants should be aware that submitted materials may be released upon request in accordance with Chapter 119, Florida Statutes.