

*Prosecution
only*

CP
CHRISTIAN | PETERSON

ATTORNEY AT LAW

**PROPOSAL FOR
CRIMINAL PROSECUTION SERVICES
FOR THE CITY OF RAMSEY**

**By:
Christian R. Peterson
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**PROPOSAL OF CHRISTIAN R. PETERSON
FOR THE CITY OF RAMSEY
CRIMINAL PROSECUTION SERVICES**

TO: The City of Ramsey, Anoka County, Minnesota, its City Council and its City Administrator

DATE: April 2, 2013

Christian R. Peterson, Attorney at Law, hereby respectfully submits his proposal for PROSECUTION legal services for the City of Ramsey (the "City").

FIRM BACKGROUND

I founded Christian Peterson Law Office in April 2012 shortly after leaving my position as an Assistant County Attorney with the Scott County Attorney's Office. I started my law firm with the intent of using my years of government experience to provide cost-effective, client-focused municipal law services to cities and townships in Minnesota. Prosecution services in Minnesota are largely being provided by large law-firms that charge high hourly fees in exchange for little interaction with the client city. Furthermore, these firms often send their most inexperienced associates to handle municipal cases. I strive to flip that approach on its head.

My law firm is a solo practice focusing on the areas of criminal prosecution, municipal law, as well as criminal defense and family law services for individuals. I have a small office in the City of Shakopee where I meet individual clients and receive mail. However, the bulk of my work is done out of my home office in Maple Grove. My firm is growing quickly as cities have seen the value my services provide. As such, I am expanding into a larger office in the City of Anoka to provide meaningful face time and court access to my municipal clients.

ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS

I have specialized in the area of criminal prosecution and municipal law for my entire legal career and have experience in all aspects of municipal prosecution. I have nearly a decade of criminal prosecution experience, and have litigated thousands of city cases from charging and pretrial on through jury trial and appeal.

Prior to working in Scott County, I was the prosecutor for the City of Ramsey with the firm of Randall and Goodrich for approximately two years from 2007 through 2009. During that time I made it my goal to provide a "face to the name" in the prosecution side of our representation; as I felt this had been previously lacking.

To that end I implemented many of the policies that your current police department, prosecutor, and city officials use to communicate about cases. I instituted regular office hours at the police department where I would attend role call and be physically present within city offices to answer questions and communicate directly with officers and city staff. I insisted that all law enforcement and city staff have my cell phone number and contact me there at any time of day. I was committed then, as I am now, to responding to all inquiries by city personnel by the end of the same business day.

In addition to my private practice, I am currently the prosecutor for the nearby City of Nowthen. As the City of Ramsey provides fire and police services to Nowthen on occasion, my representation of both cities would serve to compliment and streamline prosecution services. Furthermore as I currently attend court on the same days as the Ramsey prosecutor, a transition to my services can be done with minimal disruption.

Education

University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, Minnesota, B.S. 2002, Major: Math
University of St. Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota, J.D. 2006

Professional Chronology

Admitted to Minnesota Bar 2006
Student Attorney, Dakota County Attorney's Office 2004-2006
Assistant Kanabec County Attorney, 2006-2007
Nowthen City Attorney and Prosecutor 2007-2009, 2012-Present
Ramsey City Prosecutor 2007-2009
East Bethel City Prosecutor 2007-2008
Oak Grove City Prosecutor 2007-2009
Assistant Scott County Attorney 2009-2012

STATEMENTS OF ANY MALPRACTICE CLAIMS AND/OR ETHICS COMPLAINTS

I have not been sued by a city, or other clients for malpractice, or have been the subject of complaints filed with the State Bar, or had discipline imposed by the State Bar.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL

As my law firm is paperless and highly streamlined, support personnel are an unnecessary and costly expense. Nowthen's current level of prosecution needs does not warrant the hiring of any staff. However, with the addition of Ramsey to my caseload additional staff would be needed. Such staffing decisions would be made to assure that the City receives the highest level of services.

OFFICE LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY TO THE CITY

My main location is in my home office in Maple Grove; the same location from which I served the City previously. It is conveniently located 15 minutes from the Anoka County Courthouse, providing quick access to the courts and court administration for scheduled and special court appearances, filings, review of court files, and recording of documents.

This location is also approximately 20 minutes travel time from the Ramsey City Hall, allowing me to be quickly available for meetings and consultations.

LEGAL LIBRARY, RESEARCH, AND TECHNOLOGICAL CAPABILITIES

My office is entirely paperless, and uses Dropbox software to allow me access to all client files from any computer or mobile device. Both my home office and Shakopee office are fully equipped with computers running Microsoft Office software, as well as state of the art Digital Imaging Systems (Copier, Printer, Scanner, and Fax Machine). I utilize an Apple iPad to carry client files into the courtroom. All my office locations are equip with high-speed internet.

I have a subscription to LexisNexus legal research system, which I can access from any computer or mobile device. I also have a full library in my office, which includes complete set of Minnesota Statutes and Dunnell's Minnesota Legal Encyclopedia.

CITY/CITY PROSECUTOR RELATIONSHIP

As a solo practitioner, all aspects of municipal prosecutor would be personally handled by me. I would be responsible for prosecuting all Ramsey criminal cases from initial charging, on through negotiation and jury trial (if any). I would also be the direct contact for all issues arising out of my contract. This ensures that you will receive consistently high quality services in every matter handled by my office.

In all prosecution matters my utmost concern is for the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Ramsey. However, I do not engage in unnecessary and costly litigation of criminal cases unless absolutely necessary. All matters will be handled as efficiently as possible so long as such efficiency does not compromise public safety. As the Council is aware, I have nearly two year track record of providing outstanding prosecution services to the City.

Normally prosecution services are handled without the direct involvement of the Council. However should the Council have a specific request, it is a standing policy of my law firm to respond to all direction or inquiries from clients by the end of business the same day. When for some reason that time frame is not possible, the requesting person would be so notified by a member of our staff and informed when a response will be received. In addition, I would be available to attend any and all City Council regular meetings, special meetings, work sessions and commission meetings as directed by the City Clerk.

CLIENTS/CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Rule 1.7 of the Rules of Professional Conduct would not permit an attorney to represent a client if the representation of that client would be directly adverse to another client. The only exception to this general rule is in the following situation:

“The lawyer reasonably believes the representation will not adversely affect the relationship with the other client and each client consents after consultation.”

To the best of my knowledge, I do not have any client whose representation would conflict with our ability to provide legal services to the City of Ramsey. In the event there ever would be a conflict, I would either seek an express waiver of the conflict or assist in obtaining temporary, competent, and independent legal counsel to resolve the issue.

COMPENSATION

I propose that the fees for my legal services be billed on the number of hours worked or on a flat-fee retainer; whichever the Council prefers. The number of hours billed on a matter depends on the demands of the project and the complexities of the issue that arise. A flat-fee retainer would be based on the historical monthly average cost of providing those same services.

I am committed to providing effective legal services on a cost effective and efficient basis. I recognize that this can be difficult to judge from a client's perspective; however, the City of Ramsey has had the opportunity to work with me as their prosecutor for and has experienced my commitment to the cost-effective delivery of legal services.

Proposed hourly fee schedule:

Attorney time \$90/hr
Regular and special City Council meetings \$150/meeting (when necessary)
Paralegal time \$35/hr
Minimum increment of time billed .10/hr

Reimbursable Costs:

Photocopies \$1.50 per copy

Other charges as necessary:

Filing Fees
Document Recording Fees
Brief Printing Costs
Deposition Fees
Process Service Fees
Other costs incurred for our services charged at the actual rate that we are charged by these providers

(Please note, as in the past, before incurring any substantial fees for the above, we will consult with the appropriate City official)

Proposed flat-fee retainer

As an alternative to hourly billing, I propose that my services be billed as a monthly fixed-fee retainer. This would give the City more certainty in the amount spent on prosecution services for budgeting purposes.

Prior to quoting a retainer fee I would need copies of monthly bills for prosecution services for the last two years.

TERM OF CONTRACT

The contract term is negotiable and I will accommodate any particular needs of the City in this regard.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Bill Schulz, Mayor of Nowthen, 8188 199th Ave NW, Nowthen, MN 55330
Phone: (763) 441-1347

Corrie LaDoucer, Nowthen City Clerk, 8188 199th Ave NW, Nowthen, MN 55330
Phone: (763) 441-1347

Pat Ciliberto, Scott County Attorney, 200 4th Ave W, Shakopee, MN
Phone: 952-496-8240

William Strait, Managing Attorney, Scott Joint Prosecution Association, 200 4th Ave W,
Shakopee, MN, Phone: 952-496-8240

The Honorable Judge John P. Dehen, Anoka County District Court Judge, 325 E. Main St.,
Anoka, MN, Phone: 763-422-7440

SUMMARY OF RELEVANT CONSIDERATIONS

I enjoyed my time as the Ramsey city prosecutor, and look forward to serving your great city again. As a solo practitioner, I can provide you with the cost-effective solutions and hands on approach that a city such as yours needs. I also have the years of prosecution experience necessary to protect the citizens of Ramsey.

I welcome any questions and an opportunity to meet with the City Council to further discuss this proposal. Please feel free to contact me if you desire any additional information concerning our proposal. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Chris Peterson".

Christian R. Peterson
Attorney at Law