

Barbara J. Parker, City Attorney

CITY OF OAKLAND

OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR LEGAL SERVICES / Outside Counsel:**

**Campaign Finance, Government Ethics and
Transparency Laws and Regulations**

PLEASE PROVIDE RESPONSES BY:

Open, Continuously Accepting Proposals

**Contact Person: Alex Katz
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E-mail Address: akatz@oaklandcityattorney.org**

Issued: _____

Request for Legal Services for the Oakland Public Ethics Commission

The Oakland City Attorney is the attorney for the Mayor, City Council, City Administrator, City departments and agencies and City boards and commissions, including the Public Ethics Commission (hereinafter sometimes referred to as “PEC”). (City Charter section 401(6).) Accordingly, the Office of the City Attorney is responsible for providing all legal services for the City of Oakland Public Ethics Commission.

The City Attorney wishes to retain several qualified firms to provide outside counsel services to the City Attorney’s Office or in conjunction with the City Attorney’s Office to the Public Ethics Commission on matters within the Commission’s jurisdiction. These areas include, but are not limited to, state and local laws regarding conflicts of interest, nepotism, cronyism, bribery, fair process (bribery, nepotism, improper influence, etc.), “revolving door” employment restrictions, perks of office and misuse of City resources, , campaign contributions, public financing of campaigns, use of public resources on campaigns, lobbyist registration, revolving door restrictions, gift restrictions, Oakland City Charter section 218 which prohibits Council interference with administrative affairs, open meeting laws, public records laws, whistleblower protections, ethics training, hearing procedures, and other public ethics-related issues.

In 1996 Oakland voters amended the Oakland City Charter to establish the Public Ethics Commission to set salary increases for Councilmembers and investigate and address compliance with City of Oakland conflicts of interest laws, campaign laws, and election laws as well as other federal, state and local ethics laws and regulations. In November 2014 the Oakland voters amended the City Charter to expand the powers and duties of the Public Ethics Commission (Measure CC), change the appointment process for Commissioners, and provide minimum funding for PEC staff. In early 2015, the City Council adopted the Government Ethics Act Ordinance. The Charter amendment and the Ordinance are attached for reference. In addition, the PEC provides education and enforcement of the following local statutes: Campaign Reform Act, Limited Public Financing Act, Sunshine Ordinance, Lobbyist Registration Act and False Endorsement in Campaign Literature. For more information about the PEC in general, please see the PEC website: www.oaklandnet.com/pec.

The Office wishes to establish as soon as possible a list of qualified firms and individuals to provide the services described above.

The Oakland City Attorney’s policies and procedures for retention of outside counsel are set forth in the City Attorney’s general Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) posted on the Oakland City Attorney’s website – http://www.oaklandcityattorney.org/AboutUs/job_ops.html. Interested firms should submit responses in accord with the instructions and requirements described in the RFQ as soon as reasonably practicable.

If you have questions, please contact Alex Katz at 238-3148.