

Jurisdictional Class: Competitive
Exempt for County Service Only
EEO Category: Professional
Adopted: 01/15/2026

DEPUTY COUNTY ATTORNEY – HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: The incumbent in this position acts in the capacity of the County Attorney, upon his request, or in the event of the absence of the County Attorney and Deputy County Attorney – Administration in accordance with the designation of succession in the Office of the County Clerk as mandated by New York State County Law § 502(5), which includes the authorizing of spending, signing of the payroll and implementation of personnel decisions including the hiring, promotion, professional discipline and termination of employees. The incumbent carries out complex legal or administrative assignments in support of County government and departmental policies and procedures. The incumbent is responsible for providing legal advice and representation to Department Heads and top level department administrators in the County's Department of Family and Community Services (made up of the Department of Social Services, the Office for the Aging and Continuing Care, the Youth Bureau and the Veterans' Affairs Office, hereinafter "DFCS"), the Public Health Department and the Mental Health Department to ensure the County's interests are represented and to ensure compliance with the law. This is an appointed position in which the incumbent serves both under the general direction of and at the pleasure of the County Attorney, with wide leeway allowed for the exercise of independent judgment in carrying out the details of the work. This position differs from that of an Assistant County Attorney in that the incumbent manages a group of attorneys and staff, handles high profile and more complex cases, as well as participates in the management and operations of the office including development and implementation of office policies and hiring new personnel. The incumbent is also involved in the development and implementation of policies for the Department of Family and Community Services, the Public Health Department and the Mental Health Department. Supervision is exercised over the work of all subordinate attorneys, professional staff and clerical staff. The incumbent performs related work as required.

TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only)

Directs assignment of workload to subordinate attorneys in the areas of Health and Human Services;
Carries out complex and sensitive legal assignments that are potentially precedent-setting involving the County;
Prepares and supervises the preparation of legislation proposed by the County government or complex legal instruments in the areas of Health and Human Services;
Reviews and assigns matters in the areas of Health and Human Services, including all incoming legal papers, pleadings, motions, briefs, correspondence, etc.;
Supervises the work of attorneys in the areas of Health and Human Services to ensure that the legal work product meets professional standards;
Assists in the planning and implementation of training for attorneys and paralegal staff on pertinent areas of the law, newly enacted legislation, recently decided cases, litigation skills and/or departmental procedures in order to provide a more uniform approach for the department on routine matters and to develop skills and knowledge of subordinates;
Confers and provides assistance and advice to Department Heads and other high- ranking County officials;

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TYPICAL WORK ACTIVITIES: (Illustrative Only) continued:

Appears before legislative committees regarding pending legislation;
Assists in conducting training for County government personnel on legal issues;
Confers with opposing counsel and serves as liaison between these attorneys and County government officials;
Drafts and reviews grant applications and contracts on behalf of the County;
Reviews contract performance issues with contractors;
Assists department in the areas of Health and Human Services with meeting reporting and contracting needs to maximize state and federal reimbursement;
Advises departments in Health and Human Services areas on the County's procurement, contracting and approval policies, assist with Request For Proposals and Request For Bids preparation as well;
Provides advice and counsel to County departments in the areas of Health and Human Services;
Organizes, examines, and coordinates materials and efforts related to presentment of claims regarding abused and neglected children, juvenile delinquency cases, prosecution of in-state and out-of-state support petitions, paternity matters, issues regarding Persons in Need of Supervision and other Family Court matters other cases involving the Department of Social Services through final disposition of such cases;
Represents DFCS as the presentment agency for Article 81 Guardianship proceedings for the Adult Protective Unit and oversees and manages all active guardianship cases when the Commissioner is appointed guardian;
Acts as the County's HIPAA Compliance Officer;
Represents the County Attorney at meetings with officials from County, State and Federal government and agencies, as well as with Department heads, Committee Chairs, Legislators and other high-ranking governmental officials;
Participates in the planning, direction and coordination of the preparation of briefs and motions in the Appellate Division and Court of Appeals;
Assists in the formulation of Law Department policy, as well as policy for County departments in the areas of Health and Human Services;
Prepares and may present cases in original or appellate courts;
Acts as head of the Law Department in the absence of the County Attorney or Deputy County Attorney – Administration.

FULL PERFORMANCE KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS:

Thorough knowledge of the Federal and New York State laws governing civil practice, administrative law and supporting rules, regulations; thorough knowledge of the laws, regulations and policies, governing municipal agencies; thorough knowledge of the techniques of preparing legal memoranda, conducting legal research, analyzing legal problems and drafting legislation; good knowledge of trial techniques; good knowledge of the functions and programs of the County government; ability to analyze legal issues and identify significant cases; ability to communicate information clearly both orally and in writing; ability to plan and supervise the work of a legal staff; ability to present the County government's legislative position before legislative committees; sound professional judgment; initiative; resourcefulness; integrity; physical condition commensurate with the demands of the position.

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MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Appointed based on experience, and other such qualifications, as the County Attorney may determine appropriate.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. Admission to the Bar of the State of New York at the time of appointment.
2. Must be an Oneida County resident at time of appointment.

Adopted: 03/17/2021
Revised: 01/15/2026

Exempt classification approved by NYSCSC 01/15/2026 (#2025-002)

Oneida County Civil Service