

LEGAL COUNSEL

Relative Information: The District utilizes legal counsel for contract and document review, legal advice, and representation when necessary. The source for legal advice may vary depending on the nature of the topic. Property/casualty insurance carriers may maintain a pre-loss legal program that is accessible to its members. Such programs are particularly helpful with State and Federal issues such as civil rights, employment standards, disciplinary processes, and tort claims. The District also maintains a designated legal representative at the local level for routine legal advice and representation related to contracts and legal interpretations. The District has occasionally contracted with a firm or individual who specialized in labor relations and labor contract negotiation.

The Board of Directors may seek legal counsel at its discretion. In many cases this may take the form of a directive to the Fire Chief to investigate a particular topic and report back. In other circumstances, the Board may request a written opinion from its legal counsel and/or attendance at a Board meeting to discuss a particular issue.

Contact with legal counsel at the Administrative Staff level is coordinated by the Fire Chief. The Fire Chief may use legal counsel to review contract documents and other documents as necessary to protect District interests and liabilities.

Policy Statement: It is the policy of the Board of Directors to maintain designated District legal counsel and utilize such services as may be necessary to ensure proper review and oversight of legal documents, commitments, contracts, and/or legal processes.