



NATHAN J. HOCHMAN
LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

HALL OF JUSTICE
211 WEST TEMPLE STREET LOS ANGELES, CA 90012 (213) 974-3500

April 07, 2026

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**RECOMMENDATION TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION FOR A DEPUTY DISTRICT
ATTORNEY IN THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE FOR TWO ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEEDINGS BROUGHT BY THE STATE BAR OF CALIFORNIA
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3-VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request to provide reimbursement for legal representation for a Deputy District Attorney on two State Bar administrative proceedings.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that these administrative proceedings are brought on account of acts or omissions in the scope of the Deputy District Attorney's employment as an employee of the District Attorney's Office.
2. Find that the defense of the Deputy District Attorney in both matters would be in the best interests of the County.
3. Find that the Deputy District Attorney acted in good faith without actual malice, and in the apparent interests of the County in both matters.
4. Direct County Counsel to authorize reimbursement for attorney fees incurred in an amount not to exceed \$12,600.00, at the County's expense, for the Deputy District Attorney in the District Attorney's Office.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

I seek the Board's approval of my recommendation to provide legal representation for a Deputy District Attorney who has been requested to respond to a State Bar inquiry regarding possible violations of California Rules of Professional Conduct. These inquiries were generated by complaints filed by attorneys who represented two separate criminal defendants in two trials (one trial occurring in or around 2014 and one trial occurring in or around 2023). In one of the complaints, it is alleged statements were made by the Deputy District Attorney with regard to the victim during the 2014 trial. In the second inquiry, the complainant alleged that in 2023 the Deputy District Attorney made disparaging improper remarks about the defendant and engaged in intentional misrepresentations regarding the defense attorney in order to harm the defense attorney's creditability with the Court. I have reviewed the facts and circumstances surrounding both cases. The Deputy District Attorney has worked for the District Attorney's Office since August 1994. At the time these cases in question were prosecuted, the Deputy District Attorney was employed by the District Attorney's Office and was acting within the course and scope of employment. My review reveals no indication that the Deputy District Attorney acted with malice in either case. Rather, it appears that the Deputy District Attorney acted in apparent good faith and in the apparent interests of the People of the State of California and the County of Los Angeles. Further, I believe that defense of this Deputy District Attorney in both State Bar inquiries would be in the best interests of the County. As of April 2025, the State Bar of California has closed out both inquiries without further action.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The costs for providing legal representation should not exceed \$12,600. Funds will be allocated from the District Attorney's existing operating budget. If the costs increase, they will continue to be allocated from the District Attorney's operation budget.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Government Code Section 995.6 provides that the County is not required to provide for the defense of an administrative proceeding brought against a County employee, but the County may provide for such defense if:

The administrative proceeding is brought on account of an act or omission in the scope of employment as an employee of the public entity; and

The public entity determines that such defense would be in the best interests of the public entity and that the employee acted, or failed to act, in good faith, without actual malice and in the apparent interests of the public entity.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

Contracting process requirements are not applicable.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

None.

CONCLUSION

I recommend that your Board find that the Deputy District Attorney acted in apparent good faith, without actual malice, and in the apparent interests of the County and that their representation before the State Bar in both inquiries is in the best interests of the County. I further recommend that your Board directs County Counsel to secure legal representation for the Deputy District Attorney at the County's expense.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Nathan J. Hochman", with a stylized flourish at the end.

NATHAN J. HOCHMAN

District Attorney

ek

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel