

CITY ATTORNEY

The City Attorney acts as general counsel to the city for all of the city's legal affairs. Acting in concert with the City Council, the City Attorney has adopted a collaborative approach to providing legal services to the city. Certain legal matters are assigned to outside counsel in order to take advantage of legal specialization and cost savings. Other matters are assigned within the City Attorney's office in order to quickly and efficiently respond to the city's legal needs. Kelly Fernandez, of the law firm of Persson, Cohen, Mooney, Fernandez, and Jackson, P.A. serves as City Attorney for the City of Venice.

As part of her duties, the City Attorney or attorneys from her office attend all City Council meetings as well as meetings of the various city boards and commissions. Other responsibilities include the preparation/review of ordinances and resolutions, consultation with city officials and staff, contract preparation/review, as well as representation of the City in litigation, administrative proceedings, and appellate matters. Upon the recommendation of the City Attorney, labor matters are handled by the law firm Ford & Harrison, LLP.

The goals and objectives of the office of the City Attorney are to provide prompt, accurate and cost effective legal advice to the elected and appointed city officials so that they can better serve the needs of the citizens and taxpayers of the City of Venice.

BUDGET SUMMARY

	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Amended Budget FY 2025	Proposed Budget FY 2026
Operations	386,602	383,647	439,691	441,991
Totals	\$ 386,602	\$ 383,647	\$ 439,691	\$ 441,991



CITY OF VENICE CITY ATTORNEY EXPENDITURES													001-0501	
6 mos. = 50% Unaudited													As of 5/23/25	
Department 0501	Actual FY 2023	Actual FY 2024	Adopted Budget FY 2025	Amends/ Proj/Enc Rolls to FY 2025	Amended Budget FY 2025	YTD Thru 03/31/25	% YTD FY25	Expected FY 2025	Positive (Negative) Variance	Proposed Budget FY 2026	Incr (Decr) over FY25 Orig Budget	vs. 25 Orig Bud	FY2026 Budget Comments	
Exp - Professional Services	386,602	383,647	439,691	0	439,691	190,395	43%	439,691	0	441,991	2,300	0.5%		
514.31-03 - PROFESSIONAL SERVICES / LEGAL	386,602	383,647	439,691	0	439,691	190,395	43%	439,691	0	441,991	2,300	0.5%	FY26: No CPI on retainer +\$100K with 2.3% CPI nonretainer	