

Lessons Learned from New City Attorneys and City Attorneys in a New City

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Background of Attorneys

- Why changed positions?

So you want to be a City Attorney...

- What does the job entail?
- Mix of competency, experience/skill set, and opportunity

How to Prepare while still an Assistant City Attorney

- Increase your exposure to law office management
- Make sure your practice is as varied as possible
- Gain experience/comfort with the media
- Don't burn any bridges – the municipal community is small

How to Become a City Attorney

- Finding out about the jobs
- Networking
- Normal application process

Deciding whether to take/apply for a specific City Attorney position

- Will you like living in the city?
- Cultural differences for each workplace
- What is the Council like? What are the Council's goals?
- Who is the City Manager? Can you work with him/her?
- Staffing in the Legal Department

Public Employer v. Private Attorney

- Pros and Cons
- Going into private practice from in house work

Lessons Once Appointed

