

## **BROCHURE**

### **THE CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA**

#### **CITY ATTORNEY**

#### **THE COMMUNITY**

The City of Fort Lauderdale is situated along the Atlantic coastline in southeast Florida between Miami and Palm Beach. The City is home to 185,000 residents, with a daily population that almost doubles in size. The seventh largest city in Florida, Fort Lauderdale is the largest of Broward County's 31 municipalities. The City is centrally located in the largest tri-county metropolitan region in South Florida. Often referred to as the "Venice of America," the City is encompassed by the Atlantic Ocean, the New River and miles of scenic inland waterways and is known worldwide for its beautiful, pristine sandy white beaches.

The City of Fort Lauderdale was incorporated in 1911 and recently had its Centennial Celebration. Rich in historical heritage, the City is named after Major William Lauderdale who established a fortification during the Second Seminole War in the 1830's. Today, the City of Fort Lauderdale is internationally known as a world class destination with picturesque beaches and ample opportunities for recreation, relaxation and enjoyment. Visitors and residents enjoy the City's semi-tropical climate, natural beauty, and many cultural, entertainment and educational opportunities. The City has made a name for itself as a leader in fashion, fine dining and entertainment. Local attractions include the Riverwalk which is the cornerstone of the City's arts, science, cultural and historic district. Local museums and historic sites include the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, Museum of Discovery and Science, Museum of Art, Old Fort Lauderdale Village and Museum, and the African-American Research Library. In addition, the City is home to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Complex and the International Swimming Hall of Fame, a renowned swim facility and swim museum. Fort Lauderdale is also the home of the Annual Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, the largest boat show in the world spread over 300 million square feet with an economic impact of \$550 million. The downtown area is home to Broward College, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University, the award-winning Broward County Main Library, and federal, county and school district offices.

Besides providing an excellent quality of life, Fort Lauderdale has also become an attractive location for businesses. The City has established itself as an international business center with a business-friendly environment that makes it a desirable location for new, expanding or relocating businesses. Once focused primarily on tourism, the City's economic base has expanded to include a variety of industries such as marine, manufacturing, finance, insurance, real estate, high technology, avionics/aerospace, film and television production. Additionally, the City of Fort Lauderdale owns and operates the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, which is

consistently ranked in the top 10 general aviation airports in the United States and has an annual economic impact of more than \$815 Million. The City is also home to the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport, an emerging international gateway servicing more than 23 million passengers annually. Port Everglades, a portion of which is located in the City, is one of the largest container ports in the United States and one of the world's busiest cruise departure ports, serving more than 3 million cruise passengers annually.

Residents of Fort Lauderdale are proud of their City and embrace its spirit of community. Events, festivals, vibrant street life and preservation of its history, neighborhood character and vitality are very important to the local community.

Cooperative efforts among residents, businesses and local government entities have resulted in the continued growth and overall strength of the City's economic base, thereby ensuring that the City of Fort Lauderdale continues to be a great place to live, work and play.

## **THE CITY GOVERNMENT**

The mission of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission is to represent the public interest, promote quick, courteous response to residents' problems, provide leadership and direction for the City's future, and assure the present and future fiscal integrity of the municipal government.

The City of Fort Lauderdale has a Commission-Manager form of government. Under this form of government, the elected City Commission sets policies for the operation of the City. The City Commission consists of five members—the mayor, elected at-large, and four district commission members elected by individual districts. Each serves a three-year term. The City has four charter officers—City Attorney, City Auditor, City Clerk and City Manager. Each charter officer reports to the City Commission. The administrative responsibility of the City rests with the City Manager who oversees the operations of several departments including: Finance, Fire-Rescue, Human Resources, Information Systems, Parks and Recreation, Police, Public Works, Sustainable Development and Transportation and Mobility. The City has about 2,300 full-time staff and a budget of \$612 million, including a General Fund of \$324 million.

The City of Fort Lauderdale values its businesses and wants to continue to encourage sensible growth and economic development, while promoting equitable investments and efforts in all areas of the City. The City has an enterprise zone and a Community Development Agency and is the distributor of HUD funds for the county. Citizen participation and input in the governmental processes is highly valued, as is transparency within the government.

The City Government is fiscally conservative, proactive in meeting challenges, and is consistently supportive of allocating resources for superior public safety. As a full-service city, the City of Fort Lauderdale provides fire and police services, which are unionized, and operates

a municipal airport, emergency medical services, City municipal marinas and marine facilities, utility facilities and related capital improvement programs. The City operates “in the Sunshine,” with transparency and under very broad open public records laws.

## **THE CITY ATTORNEY’S OFFICE**

The Office of the City Attorney has the responsibility to protect the legal interests of the City in the conduct of its day-to-day business and in the prosecution and defense of legal challenges. The City of Fort Lauderdale City Attorney’s Office provides a wide variety of services. Services include interpreting and applying state and federal statutory and case law and the City Charter and Code of Ordinances; researching legal authority to provide guidance to the City; directing the preparation of ordinances, resolutions, agreements, pleadings, and other legal documents; negotiating, drafting and reviewing contracts, bonds, and other legal instruments; sitting as Commission, City Advisory Board and Committee Counsel; prosecuting, defending and settling all legal challenges filed on behalf of or against the City, in State and Federal courts and before administrative agencies, including challenges to City ordinances, development approvals, employment actions, civil rights actions, torts, tax liability issues, the foreclosure of City liens and mortgages, the prosecution of municipal ordinances, and adjusting claims made.

The City Attorney’s Office has 24 members, including the City Attorney and 11 Assistant City Attorneys, and a departmental operating budget of \$3.9 million.

## **THE POSITION**

The City Attorney is appointed by and serves at the pleasure of the Mayor and Commissioners and is responsible for protecting the legal interests and assets of the City, with the highest level of professionalism, ethics, and dedication to serve the City of Fort Lauderdale for the benefit of its citizens. The City Attorney is the legal advisor to the City Commission, City Manager, department heads, City administrative staff and City Advisory Boards and Committees. The duties require the exercise of extensive independent judgment and coordination of a variety of specialized services performed by in-house legal staff and outside counsel. The City Attorney plans, directs, and coordinates all legal services; supervises the work performed in the City Attorney’s Office; attends Commission meetings and conferences to receive policy direction, respond to legal questions, and advise about alternative legal and administrative approaches to resolve issues affecting the City; directing the preparation of City ordinances, resolutions, agreements, pleadings, and other legal documents; overseeing the development of strategies about litigation matters; selecting, training and evaluating City Attorney professional and administrative staff; and supervising the development of the Department’s annual operating budget.

The City Attorney position is open due to the retirement of the City Attorney after many years of service to the City.

### **THE IDEAL CANDIDATE**

The ideal candidate will have administrative and management experience with a public or private practice, a variety of litigation experience, excellent verbal and written communication skills, and strong analytical abilities. The ideal candidate will exercise extensive independent judgment and have a thorough knowledge of legal principles and concepts related to local government law and how to apply them properly. Candidates should have thorough knowledge of municipal charters, city and county codes and federal, state, and local laws and judicial decisions of federal and state courts as they relate to local government rights, privileges and responsibilities. Ability to handle administrative, trial and appellate work is needed. The successful candidate must be able to handle several assignments concurrently, maintain security and confidentiality develop and maintain effective working relationships, and supervise others work through planning, review, and management. The City Attorney should be accessible and work well with other departments and agencies, both internal and external to the organization. A strong leader with a collaborative management style who promotes teamwork and encourages and mentors staff is desired.

Graduation from an accredited college of law and a license to practice law in the State of Florida is required, with a minimum 15 years of progressively responsible legal experience of which at least ten years will be in public sector and local government law; experience in land use, historic preservation, public utilities and labor unions a plus.

### **THE COMPENSATION**

The salary range is open and dependent on qualifications. The starting salary will be based on the knowledge and experience of the individual selected. The City offers an excellent benefits package. For additional information on benefits, please visit: [www.fortlauderdale.gov](http://www.fortlauderdale.gov).

### **TO APPLY**

If interested in this outstanding opportunity, please visit our website at [www.bobmurrayassoc.com](http://www.bobmurrayassoc.com) and follow the prompt to apply online by creating an applicant profile.

First review of applicants will occur on October 29, 2012; position is open until filled.

Resumes will be screened according to the qualifications outlined above. Screening interviews with the most qualified applicants will be conducted by Bob Murray and Associates in order to determine a select group of finalist candidates who will be asked to provide references.

Interviews will be held at the City of Fort Lauderdale with the Selection Committee; finalists will advance to interviews with the City Commission. References will only be contacted following candidate consent.

Questions regarding this recruitment may be directed to Ms. Renee Narloch, Vice President, Bob Murray & Associates at [info@bobmurrayassoc.com](mailto:info@bobmurrayassoc.com) or call 850-391-0000.

The City of Fort Lauderdale is an equal opportunity/ADA employer.

**PURSUANT TO FLORIDA OPEN RECORDS LAW, APPLICATIONS AND RESUMES ARE SUBJECT TO DISCLOSURE**