

THORPE & CHRISTIAN s.c.

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VILLAGE OF FONTANA

**Proposal and Qualifications
For Attorney For
The Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake**

September 18, 2014

Thorpe & Christian, S.C.
1624 Hobbs Drive, Suite 1
Delavan, WI 53115
Phone: (262) 740-1971
Fax: (262) 740-1090

INTRODUCTION

The law firm of Thorpe & Christian, S.C. is located at 1624 Hobbs Drive, Suite 1, Delavan, Wisconsin. Thorpe & Christian, S.C. was established in 2003 as a general practice law firm by Dale L. Thorpe and Scott T. Christian, former classmates and graduates of the Marquette University Law School.

Attorney Dale L. Thorpe has been practicing law in Wisconsin for 26 years with a majority of his practice concentrated in the area of municipal law, business law, real estate law, and land use law. Attorney Thorpe is an "AV" rated attorney by the nationally recognized Martindale-Hubbell rating system. Attorney Scott T. Christian has been practicing for 24 years and concentrates his practice in the area of business law and specialized representation with regard to municipalities.

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OFFICE STAFF AND FACILITIES

In addition to the above two shareholders, our firm provides the additional services of five associate attorneys. As support staff for the attorneys and our clients, we provide five legal assistants, two receptionists, a bookkeeper and an office manager. We also have personnel available for investigation, process service, and related activities. With such a large and diverse staff, our goal is to always be accessible to our clients and to serve the client's needs as promptly and efficiently as possible.

Our modern office houses an extensive law library and fully equipped computerized network, which includes all national computerized research systems, *i.e.*, Westlaw, Lexis, Fastcase and the Internet. This system allows us access not only to legal research in Wisconsin, all other states, and federal law, but provides us with access to a multitude of other research, topics, and research capability. Our system also provides for electronic mail, as well as facsimile transmissions.

MUNICIPAL EXPERIENCE

Thorpe & Christian, S.C. has extensive experience in all municipal legal matters. The following is a representative sample:

1. Municipal land use law, including zoning and subdivision matters and annexation.
2. Municipal budget law and T.I.F. law.
3. Open Meetings Law issues.
4. Preparation of Resolutions and Ordinances on all municipal subjects.
5. Municipal litigation, including work with municipal insurers on coverage issues.
6. Criminal prosecutions.
7. Board of Review hearings, including defense of Board of Review decisions in the Circuit and Appellate Courts.
8. Municipal contracts, including Intergovernment Agreements and Boundary Agreements.
9. Human Resource issues, including preparation of employment contracts.

CURRENT MUNICIPAL CLIENTS

- Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake
- Town of East Troy Sanitary District No. 2
- City of Milton Special Counsel
- Special Counsel for numerous other communities on an “as needed” basis

REFERENCES

Mayor Mel Nieuwenhuis (262) 728-3766
Sanitary District Commissioner Chuck Decker (414) 915-8593

ATTORNEY EXPERIENCE

Members of our firm limit their areas of practice in an effort to provide the best, most cost-effective service available. The following are practice areas related to municipal representation:

A. Employment/Collective Bargaining

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin have been involved in collective bargaining on behalf of various municipalities, universities or public entities including negotiations with, among others, the police officers' union, municipal employees' unions, and teachers' unions.

B. Real Estate and Zoning

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin each devote a significant portion of their practices in the areas of real estate and land use issues. Attorney Thorpe, manager of the real estate group, has extensive legal experience relating to zoning, including thorough and comprehensive knowledge of Wisconsin law on the subject. He further has a comprehensive knowledge of new developments in the law as they relate to municipal zoning and land use controls.

C. Board of Review

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin have been involved in representation of municipalities at the board of review level, as well as the Circuit Court and the Court of Appeals related real estate assessment matters.

D. Contracts

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin, on behalf of their municipal clients, have also been involved in the negotiation and preparation of many municipal contract forms.

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin have been involved in the negotiation and preparation of many real estate contracts - from simple offers to purchase to

complex development agreements.

Attorneys Dale L. Thorpe and Scott T. Christian practice extensively in business and commercial law. They have extensive experience in contract negotiation and preparation, ranging from simple business contracts to contracts for the construction of multi-million dollar facilities and public improvements.

E. Litigation

Our firm is committed to providing our clients with the best litigation service available. Attorneys Darryl J. Lee, Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin have extensive litigation experience, including experience in defending municipal claims, prosecuting lawsuits on behalf of municipalities, prosecuting ordinance violations, and all related issues. Attorney Lindsey M. White currently serves as prosecuting attorney for our current municipal clients. With our extensive network of available, experienced attorneys, our firm's availability to your litigation needs will not be a question.

LIABILITY INSURANCE COVERAGE

Thorpe & Christian, S.C. maintains professional services coverage through Wisconsin Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company. A certificate of insurance is available on request.

DESIGNATION OF PRINCIPAL MEMBER

Attorney Dale L. Thorpe will be your contact person for all matters involving the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake. Attorney Dale L. Thorpe will be directly assisted by Attorneys Lindsey M. White and Matthew J. Galvin, although all Thorpe & Christian, S.C. attorneys would be available to assist you.

BILLING RATES

Our firm would propose that we bill at an hourly rate for both general work as Village Attorney and work as Prosecutor, as follows: \$120.00/Hour

This hourly rate would be subject to a \$5.00/hour inflation adjustment increase each year thereafter.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

It is our policy and practice to always avoid known conflicts. We have installed an office conflict check procedure for every file that is opened in an attempt to identify potential conflicts at the earliest possible time. No attorney employed by Thorpe & Christian, S.C., would ever proceed in an adversarial situation with the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake.

If more information is needed or if you have questions, please feel free to contact our office. We look forward to the opportunity to represent the Village of Fontana-on-Geneva Lake and its citizens.

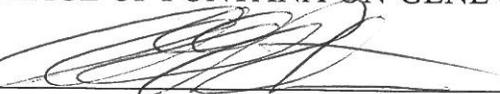


Attorney Dale L. Thorpe

e-mail: dthorpe@thorpechristian.com

This Proposal for Village Attorney and Village Attorney - Prosecutorial Duties is hereby approved this 6th day of October, 2014.

VILLAGE OF FONTANA-ON-GENEVA LAKE

By: 

Arvid Petersen, Village President

Attest: 

Theresa Linneman, Village Clerk