

**CHAPTER TEN  
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

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CORPORATION COUNSEL

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**CHAPTER 10**  
**CORPORATION COUNSEL**

**Sec. 10-1 Office established.**

There is established the office of corporation counsel.

(Ord of 11-17-55, § 1)

**State law reference** - Authority to provide for corporation counsel, Wis. Stat. § 59.42.

**Sec. 10-2 Duties.**

(a) The duties of the corporation counsel shall be limited to civil matters in which the county is an interested party, and shall include giving legal counsel and opinions to the county executive, county board, its chairperson and its committees, and interpreting the rights, powers and duties of the county board and county officers and departments. The corporation counsel shall attend all meetings of the county board, and committees of the board when requested by either the chairperson of the board or chairperson of county board committees.

(b) In addition, the corporation counsel shall:

1. Collect all claims and accounts due the county in civil matters, including relief payments from place of legal settlement and accounts originating in orders of the courts which have resulted in disbursements by any of the welfare agencies of the county;
2. Serve as legal advisor to all county officials and departments, and shall draw up all legal papers required in the performance of the duties of those officials and departments, and attend to all legal matters in and out of court where such officials or departments shall be interested parties. He shall be legal counsel for the department in all matters involving the department, and at the request of the director of the department. He shall institute legal action on behalf of the county in all matters where aid is involved at the request of the director of the department;
3. Procure tax deeds from the county when requested to do so and enforce and foreclose old age assistance lien claims against real estate, probate estates of deceased old age assistance recipients, and institute appropriate actions in court against those who are legally responsible for the support of old age recipients, with a view toward obtaining partial or complete support of such recipients;
4. Perform such other work of a civil nature, such as the handling of bond issues, or other matters, as may be assigned or delegated to him by the county executive or county board;
5. Examine state special charges which are made against the county for persons in institutions outside of the county. He shall determine if such charges when made against the county are properly and legally chargeable against the county;

6. Assist in collecting the commitment charges under the commitments made by the various courts of the county and determine legal settlement in all cases in which legal settlement is disputed;
7. Represent the interests of the public in such matters referred to him under Wisconsin Statutes sections 48.13 and 48.14;
8. Perform such other duties as the county board and county executive may prescribe.

(Ord. No. 11-17-55, §§ 2, 4; Res. No. 164-11/78, 11-16-78)  
**Cross reference** - Intake services for Children's Code, § 12-3.

**Sec. 10-3 District attorney relieved of duties.**

Whenever any of the powers and duties conferred upon the corporation counsel are concurrent with similar powers or duties conferred by law upon the district attorney or his assistants, the district attorneys or his assistants powers or duties shall cease to the extent that they are so conferred upon the corporation counsel, and the district attorney or his assistants shall be relieved of the responsibility for performing such powers and duties. Opinions of the corporation counsel on all such matters shall have the same force and effect as opinion of the district attorney.

(Ord. of 11-17-55, § 6)

**Sec. 10-4 Settlement of claim.**

The corporation counsel is authorized to settle claims for amounts not to exceed five hundred dollars (\$500.00) in accordance with Wisconsin Statutes section 59.52(12)(b).

(Res. No. 262-2/86, 2-20-86)

**Secs. 10-5 - 10-25 Reserved.**