

Role of the City Attorney & Development of the City Attorney/City Manager Relationship – It's All Good, or Should Be

**Jeffrey Kolin, City Manager
City of Beverly Hills**

**Jonathan P. Lowell, City Attorney
City of Pleasanton**



Every City is Different and So Are We



Why Are We Talking About This?

Los Angeles Times

Bell: ‘Corruption on Steroids’

The Bell corruption scandal burst onto the nation’s front pages in 2010 as a story about a small city whose leaders paid themselves outsized salaries.

March 20, 2013



The City Attorney's Responsibilities

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the California Rules of Professional Conduct website. The address bar shows the URL <http://rules.calbar.ca.gov/Rules/RulesofProfessionalConduct.aspx>. The page features a blue navigation bar with links for HOME, RULES, and SELECTED LEGAL AUTHORITY. A left sidebar contains a menu with three items: Previous Rules, Current Rules, and Proposed Rules of Professional Conduct. The main content area is titled "RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT" and includes a breadcrumb trail: Home > Rules > Rules of Professional Conduct. Below the title, a paragraph explains that the California Rules of Professional Conduct are intended to regulate professional conduct through discipline, adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the California Supreme Court. A table lists the chapters of the rules, with links for HTML and PDF versions. A right sidebar highlights "Proposed Rules of Professional Conduct" and notes that the rules are currently being revised.

HOME RULES SELECTED LEGAL AUTHORITY

Previous Rules
Current Rules
Proposed Rules of Professional Conduct

Home > Rules > Rules of Professional Conduct

RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

The California Rules of Professional Conduct are intended to regulate professional conduct of members of the State Bar through discipline. They have been adopted by the Board of Trustees and approved by the California Supreme Court pursuant to statute to protect the public and to promote respect and confidence in the legal profession. The rules and any related standards adopted by the Board are binding on all members of the State Bar.

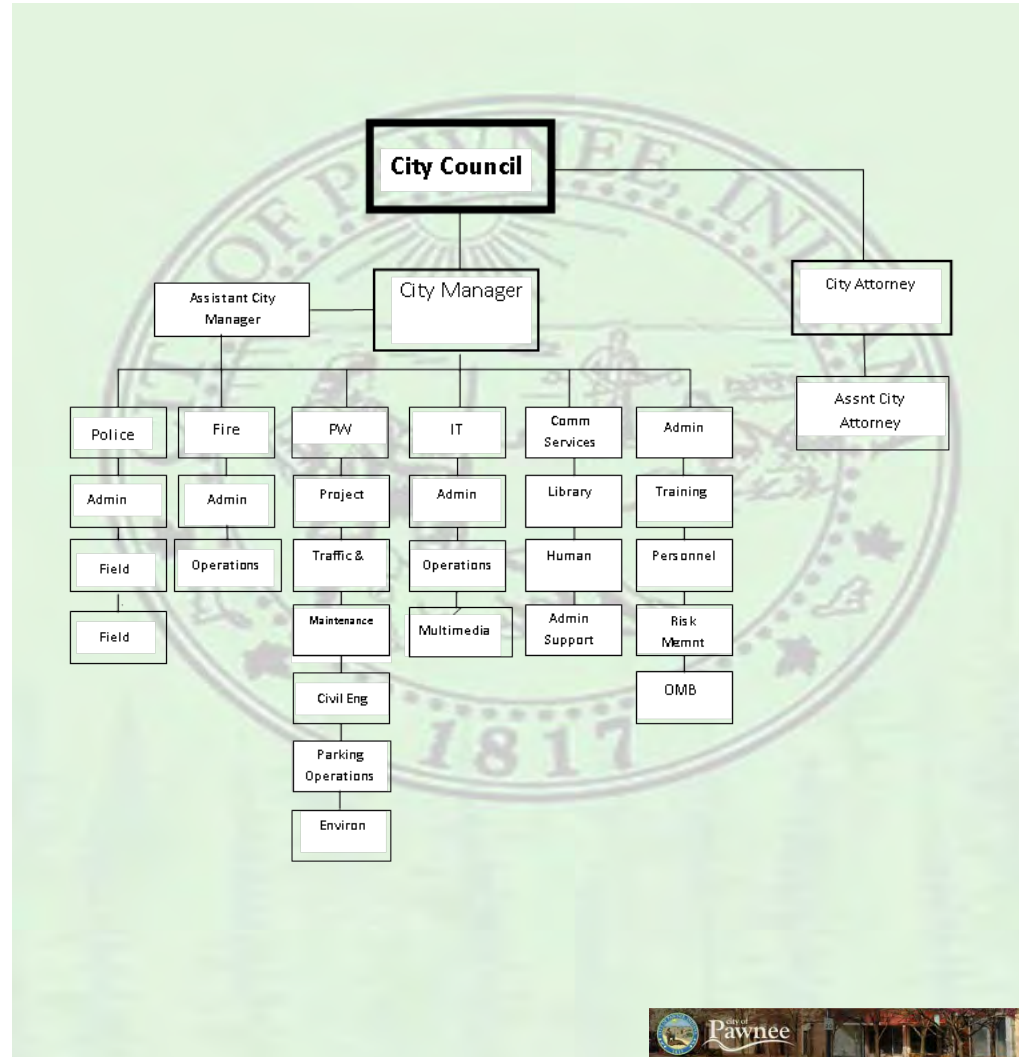
California Rules of Professional Conduct	HTML	PDF
Chapter 1. Professional integrity in general		
Chapter 2. Relationship among members		
Chapter 3. Professional relationship with clients		
Chapter 4. Financial relationship with clients		
Chapter 5. Advocacy and Representation		

Proposed Rules of Professional Conduct

The Rules of Professional Conduct are currently being revised. See [Commission for the Revision of the Rules of Professional Conduct](#) to view the proposed rules, draft discussions, public comment information and other materials related to the revision process.

183%

It's All About Relationships



City Attorney and City Manager are Bound to One Another

- ▶ **Municipal Code**
- ▶ **Charter**
- ▶ **City Attorney Contract**
- ▶ **City Manager Contract**
- ▶ **City Council Rules**
- ▶ **You Serve the Same City Council**



The Typical City Attorney



The Typical City Manager



The Typical City Manager



The Typical City Manager



The City Attorney's Office from Hell



The City Attorney's Office from Hell



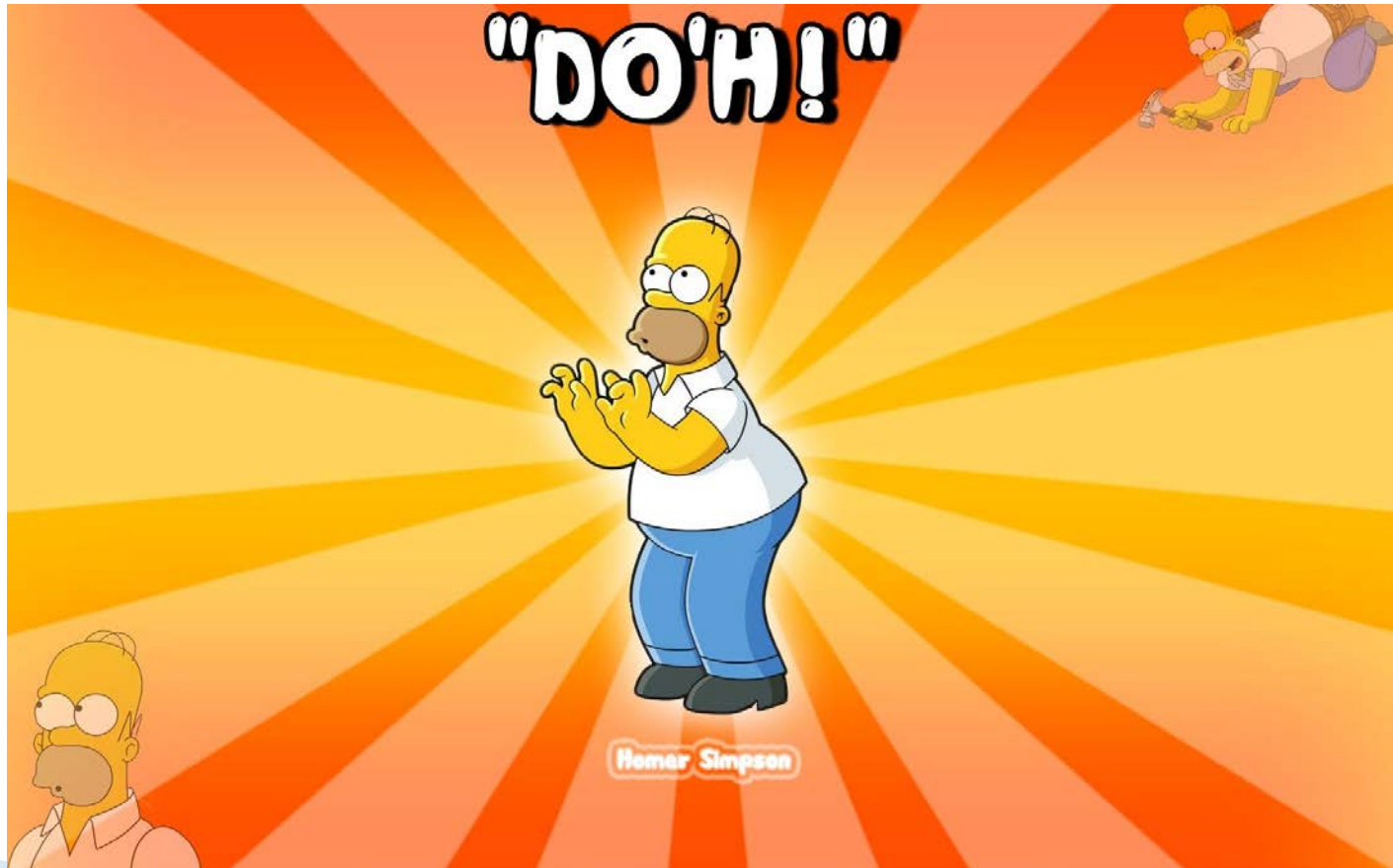
Bad City Manager



Good City Manager



Communicate with Your City Manager



Hypothetically speaking...



City Attorney Should Ask Questions



Collaboration and Teamwork Make for More Effective Lawyering and Good Relations with the City Manager and City Council



Sometimes There's Conflict



Resolving Conflict



Attorneys, Put a Sock In It



Rise Above Cat Fights



Breaking Bad Behavior



Develop Coping Skills



More on Coping



When it Clicks



If you are “In Transition”

Bay Area News Group » Wednesday, July 31, 2013

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WALNUT CREEK UPHEAVAL

City attorney resigning

Wenter cites bad work environment, pressure to halt Leshner abuse probe

By Elisabeth Nardi
enardi@bayareanewsgroup.com

WALNUT CREEK — Council members tried to derail an internal investigation once it revealed that the city manager knew of the allegations of child sex abuse by a Leshner Center

employee earlier than he disclosed, according to outgoing City Attorney Bryan Wenter.

Wenter said this type of pressure from the people who hired him and what he called a “difficult” work environment prompted him

to resign Monday after two years as the city’s top counsel.

Mayor Cindy Silva said Tuesday she was not aware of any effort to shut down the investigation.

After Wenter announced his resignation, one of his two assistant city attorneys announced she, too, was leaving.

The atmosphere at City

Hall has apparently become intolerable for Wenter in the wake of the Leshner Center child abuse “mandated reporting” internal investigation. That investigation examined whether city employees fulfilled their responsibilities to report suspected abuse to police after firing a former Leshner



Wenter
Says council members tried to stop probe

See ATTORNEY, Page 4

Top Ten Ways to Deal with Your City Manager

Coming up.....Top Ten List



