

Demystifying the Role of the Municipal Attorney

Presented by ...

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Presentation Outline

- Who We Are
- What We Do
- How We Do
- Secrets You Should Know
- Why We Do

WHO WE ARE

- Panel Introductions
- Attorneys In General
- Municipal Attorneys In Particular



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WHAT WE DO

- Advocate
- Advise
- Support
 - Legislative
 - Administrative
 - Education/Training
- Practice In A Political Environment



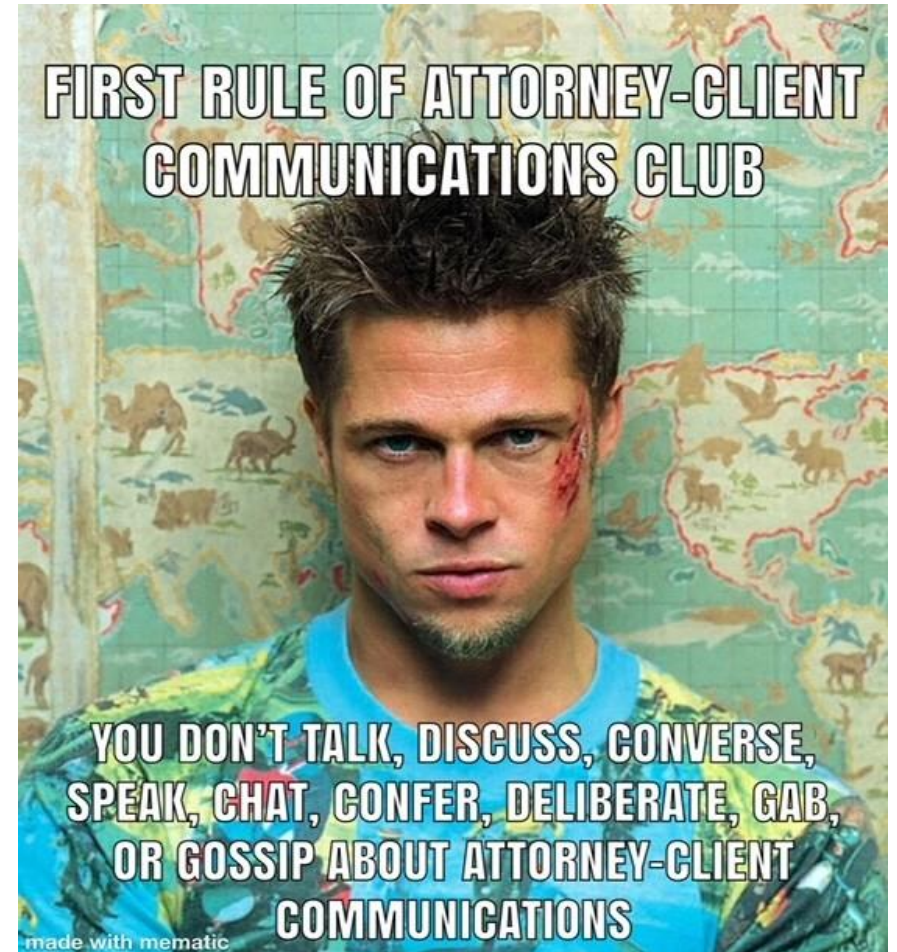
Look on the bright side.
Things are never so bad they
can't be worse.

– Mom

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HOW WE DO

- Contract vs. In-house
- Small/Medium/Large Office Differences
- Legal Resources
 - Research
 - Experience
 - Subject Matter Expertise
 - Municipal Bar/CML Listserv



*** SECRETS YOU SHOULD KNOW ***

- There Is A Reason All Municipalities Are Required To Have A City Attorney
- Just Because You Don't Like The Attorney's Opinion Doesn't Make It A Bad Opinion
- Sometimes The Answer Is Not A Clear "Yes" Or "No"
- There Are Lots Of Factors That Go Into Recommending Litigation Settlement
- Shopping Around For Answers / Practicing Law Without A License
- You Make A Ton Of Decisions, But Not Every One Requires A Legal Opinion (We'll Let You Know Which Ones Do)
- You Want To Rely On Our Advice, So Give Us Time To Research And Think Before We Answer
- Closed Executive Sessions And Providing Legal Advice In Public
- We Are Not The Naysayers Some People Think We Are
- Colorado Municipal Attorneys Talk To Each Other
- Worst Case Vs. Probable Case
- Candor Cuts Both Ways (Be Clear As To Facts And Objectives)
- Our Least Favorite Place To Be Is In The News
- Your Agenda Is Our Agenda, But Please Don't Ask Us To Debate Policy



WHY WE DO

- Municipal Law Is A Calling
- We Believe In Public Service
- We Believe In Teamwork
- Local Government Is Dynamic And Flexible
- Every Day Is An Adventure
(And The War Stories Are Epic)





Thank
You!

We hope this presentation has been informative. If you have additional questions regarding the work of municipal attorneys, please do not hesitate to contact

YOUR CITY ATTORNEY



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Final Reminders!



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