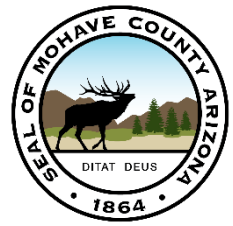


# MOHAVE COUNTY ATTORNEY



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## CIVIL DIVISION – SUMMARY SHEET

- **MCAO’S DUAL ROLES.** In addition to the County Attorney’s Office’s role as the chief criminal-prosecution agency, we have other statutory duties, as the County’s in-house law firm on civil matters.
- **WHO IS THE CLIENT?** As a rule, Mohave County is our client, and not individual elected officials or employees (also known as client representatives), though there are exceptions where we represent the client representatives and the County.
- **THE RESPECTIVE ROLES OF COUNTY OFFICIALS/EMPLOYEES AND CAO.** The County, acting through its elected and appointed officials, is generally responsible for setting policy and goals, while MCAO is responsible for making decisions about legal strategy.
- **WHAT WE DON’T DO.** There are certain things about which we will not advise County elected officials or employees, such as personal legal matters and the individual’s own employment issues.

- **WHO MAKES DECISIONS FOR THE COUNTY.** We take direction from the individual official or body that we believe has the statutory authority to provide that direction, or from their designee. A disagreement between departments or officials does not usually create a disqualifying “conflict of interest” for our office, as the identity of the client, Mohave County, remains the same, and MCAO will not advocate for one County department or official against another in a policy dispute.
- **CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.** If we determine that we have a “conflict of interest” we will take steps to resolve it, which may in some—but not all—instances require hiring outside counsel.
- **THE ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGE.** Some (though not all) communications between County representatives and our office are privileged as to the outside world but we will still share those communications with others inside the County organization when that is in the best interests of the organization.
- **COMMUNICATION.** During proposed or actual litigation, we will do our best to keep key county personnel informed about the status of the case and important developments. Note that there will be “quiet times” when nothing may be happening with a litigation matter, but that does not carry either a negative or a positive connotation about the case.