

Senate Engrossed  
county attorney; representation; duties

State of Arizona  
Senate  
Fifty-sixth Legislature  
First Regular Session  
2023

# SENATE BILL 1211

AN ACT

AMENDING SECTION 11-532, ARIZONA REVISED STATUTES; RELATING TO COUNTY ATTORNEYS.

(TEXT OF BILL BEGINS ON NEXT PAGE)

1 Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Arizona:

2 Section 1. Section 11-532, Arizona Revised Statutes, is amended to  
3 read:

4 11-532. Powers and duties; definition

5 A. The county attorney is the public prosecutor of the county and  
6 shall:

7 1. Attend the superior and other courts within the county and  
8 ~~conduct~~, on behalf of the state, **CONDUCT** all prosecutions for public  
9 offenses.

10 2. Institute proceedings before magistrates for the arrest of  
11 persons charged with or reasonably suspected of public offenses when the  
12 county attorney has information that the offenses have been committed.

13 3. If not engaged in criminal proceedings in the superior court,  
14 attend on the magistrates in cases of arrest if required by them, and  
15 attend before and give advice to the grand jury.

16 4. Draw indictments and informations, defend actions brought  
17 against the county and prosecute actions to recover recognizances  
18 forfeited in courts of record and actions for recovery of debts, fines,  
19 penalties and forfeitures accruing to the state or county.

20 5. Deliver receipts for monies or property received in the county  
21 attorney's official capacity and file duplicate receipts with the clerk of  
22 the board.

23 6. On the first Monday of January, April, July and October in each  
24 year, file with the board of supervisors an account, verified by oath, of  
25 all monies received in the county attorney's official capacity during the  
26 preceding three months, and at the same time pay it to the county  
27 treasurer.

28 7. When required, give a written opinion to county officers on  
29 matters relating to the duties of their offices.

30 8. Keep a register of official business, ~~and~~ and enter in the register  
31 every action prosecuted, criminal or civil, and of the proceedings of the  
32 action.

33 9. Act as the legal advisor to the board of supervisors, attend its  
34 meetings and oppose claims against the county that the county attorney  
35 deems unjust or illegal.

36 10. Act as **THE** attorney for school districts **BASED ON THE**  
37 **AVAILABILITY OF STAFF AND IF THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST**, except as  
38 provided in section 15-343, ~~or~~ or except in any lawsuits involving a  
39 conflict of interest with other county offices, at which time the attorney  
40 general may represent the school district.

41 11. Act as **THE** attorney for the community college district **BASED ON**  
42 **THE AVAILABILITY OF STAFF AND IF THERE IS NO CONFLICT OF INTEREST**, except  
43 as provided in section 15-1448 or except in any lawsuits involving a  
44 conflict of interest with other county offices, at which time the attorney  
45 general may represent the community college district.

1           12. Defend all locally valued and assessed property tax appeals as  
2 provided in section 42-16208.

3           B. On receipt of an appellant's brief in a criminal appeal, the  
4 county attorney shall furnish the attorney general with a true statement  
5 of the facts in the case, together with the available authorities and  
6 citations that are responsive to the assignments or specifications of  
7 error.

8           C. The county attorney may represent a school district governing  
9 board member against whom an action is brought in the board member's  
10 individual capacity until it is established as a matter of law that the  
11 alleged activity or events that form the basis of the complaint were not  
12 performed, or not directed to be performed, within the scope or course of  
13 the member's duties.

14           D. Notwithstanding article 12 of this chapter, in connection with  
15 the investigation or prosecution of any matter involving the death of a  
16 person, the county attorney may request that the medical examiner, for the  
17 county in which the prosecution will take place, conduct the medical  
18 examination.

19           E. The county attorney may provide civil legal services to another  
20 county or other political subdivision of this state or an officer,  
21 employee or agency of a political subdivision of this state at the request  
22 of that county's or political subdivision's elected or appointed general  
23 counsel or pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement entered into by the  
24 county and the other political subdivision as provided in chapter 7,  
25 article 3 of this title at the request of the county attorney. Any  
26 intergovernmental agreement shall state any payment to be rendered for the  
27 services and the scope of the representation. The county attorney may  
28 also obtain civil legal services for the county or for an officer,  
29 employee or agency of the county, from the elected or appointed general  
30 counsel of another county or other political subdivision of this state by  
31 request or pursuant to an intergovernmental agreement.

32           F. For the purposes of this section "general counsel" means an  
33 elected or appointed county attorney, city attorney or town attorney.