

November 2, 2025

City of Dripping Springs  
PO Box 384  
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Dear Mayor and City Council:

**Re: City Attorney**

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I'm writing to be considered for appointment as City Attorney. I bring the perspective of a former chief legal officer for a large and fast-growing city and someone who has enjoyed building and leading an in-house municipal law department that supported complex, high-visibility public services.

From 2017 to 2024, I served as City Attorney for the City of Abbotsford, a 145 square mile community of approximately 165,000 residents bordering Washington state with a roughly \$200M annual budget and over 1,000 employees.

I built the in-house legal department, served on the Strategic Leadership Team, regularly covered as Acting City Manager, and expanded my managerial oversight to include Code Enforcement (approximately 25 officers), Real Estate Services, Risk Management, Legislative Services/City Clerk (including Elections), Open Records, Records Management, and the City Hall Reception/Mailroom—ultimately leading a highly engaged team of approximately 40 staff.

My portfolio supported operations at a city-owned international airport, municipal police, auxiliary fire department, a large parks and recreation system (over 2,200 acres), a 120,000 sq. ft. convention center, and an 8,500-seat arena. That scale required a strong willingness to learn, clear judgment, pragmatic and timely guidance, and practical tools that helped staff deliver day-to-day results.

I anchor legal leadership in **systems, standards, and service**. Concretely, I:

- Implemented contract playbooks and streamlined legal request intake to shorten turnaround times and reduce risk.
- Modernized open-records workflows and records-retention practices, pairing training with clear standard operating procedures.
- Delivered cross-department counsel for complex operations, including the airport, land use and planning, engineering, finance, human resources, information technology, police, public safety, and parks.

I also bring a track record of innovation and high-impact results:

- Supreme Court of Canada (amicus) — presented oral argument in a significant public-law matter, successfully defending a challenge to the doctrine of governmental immunity in tort litigation.
- American Hockey League team agreement — led the end-to-end negotiation and implementation to bring professional hockey to Abbotsford, saving the City over \$1M per year in arena operating costs while improving venue utilization and community value.
- Automated legal invoice processing — deployed matter coding, validation, and reporting to increase cost control and transparency and to reduce administrative load.

Public service also means investing in our professional community. I have presented at numerous municipal law conferences, including at the State Bar of Texas's Annual Advanced Government Law Conference in 2025, and twice at the Texas City Attorneys' Association's Fall Conference (2024, 2025). I have served on the Board of Directors and Governance Committee of E-Comm 9-1-1, British Columbia's largest provider of emergency communications and first-responder dispatch, during a period of significant transformation—experience that strengthened my governance, oversight, and change-management perspective. I also currently serve on the State Bar of Texas's Laws Related to Immigration and Nationality Committee.

Over nearly my entire legal career, I've served government entities. That experience has taught me to be politically aware while rigorously remaining politically neutral—to anticipate the policy context, surface legal and operational trade-offs, and provide clear, nonpartisan counsel that helps elected officials and staff make defensible, transparent decisions.

In Dripping Springs, as Deputy City Attorney, I have continued to advise Council, boards, and staff across ordinances, contracts, land use, procurement, compliance, open records, and code enforcement support. I regularly prepare staff reports, develop guidance memos and templates, and coordinate across departments to keep work moving. My approach is pragmatic and collaborative: meet operational needs, maintain legal defensibility, and communicate in plain language.

I have benefitted from excellent hands-on training and coaching in Texas municipal law from outgoing City Attorney Laura Mueller. Combined with my willingness to learn and commitment to continuous improvement, I am confident that my experience will allow me to provide efficient and effective counsel in all areas of the law that affect the city.

I'm ready to step into the City Attorney role and provide the steady, solutions-oriented legal leadership the City expects: proactive counsel, clear frameworks that scale, and reliable execution alongside staff. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Aniz Alani



# Aniz Alani

I am a pragmatic, public service-oriented lawyer with a strong technical background and 18 years of legal experience including in complex contract negotiation, municipal law, legislative drafting, litigation, access to information and privacy, and employment law.

## Professional Experience

**Feb. 2024 - Present**

City of Dripping Springs: Dripping Springs, TX, USA

### Deputy City Attorney

I assist the City Attorney in advising city council and city staff on all legal matters directed by City Attorney, the Mayor, and City Council, including contract lifecycle management, legislative drafting, and Public Information Act issues.

I redesigned contract templates for consistency, ease of updating, and faster turnaround.

With zero budget, I developed an application to track the progress of over 11,000 bills introduced during the 89th Legislative Session and automate user notifications and reports to flag upcoming hearings scheduled for bills of strategic importance to the City.

I introduced and deployed an electronic review, approval and signature process for City contracts complemented by a newly drafted electronic signature policy aligned with Texas law.

**2021-2024**

City of Abbotsford: Abbotsford, BC, Canada

### General Manager, Legal and Legislative Services

Reporting to the City Manager, I led a team of 40 staff delivering legal services, risk management, real estate, City Clerk, records management and privacy, bylaw enforcement, and corporate mailroom functions serving a fast-growing city with over 165,000 residents.

I oversaw the design and implementation of a legal service request and DocuSign-integrated contract lifecycle management platform that incorporates a "playbook" for negotiating procurement and partnership contracts. The result was more efficient legal review, consistent high standard work, and enhanced collaboration between cross-functional teams.

I managed litigation and negotiating strategy for the City's most significant and impactful projects including the defense of a class action lawsuit with several billion dollars of potential exposure, collaboration with local Indigenous peoples, and the possible future expansion of a local casino to increase the City's share of gaming revenue.

I led the development of the City's first:

- **Land Strategy**
  - Strategic acquisition and development of City-owned property
- **Bylaw Enforcement Strategy**
  - eliminated a years-long backlog of code enforcement files
  - launched a city-wide multimedia public awareness campaign generating more YouTube engagement than any previous city-sponsored content
  - civilly and criminally prosecuted significant offenders
  - restructured the code enforcement department to maximize resources and incorporate succession planning
- **Bylaw Modernization Strategy**
  - a multi-pronged approach to rewriting all 100+ city ordinances in a user-friendly, plain language format.

## Education

2017

**Master of Laws**

University of British Columbia

2006

**Juris Doctor**

University of Toronto

1999-2003

**Bachelor of Arts (Candidate)**

University of British Columbia

## Bar Admissions

2007

**British Columbia**

(Non-Practicing)

2023

**Texas**

2025

**Massachusetts**

**New York (Pending)**

## Awards & Honors

Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers in Canada (Nominee, "Changemaker" Category), Canadian Lawyer Magazine, 2015

Dean's Honor List, University of Manitoba Faculty of Law, 2004

D.A. Thompson, Q.C. Prize in Constitutional Law, 2004

Max and Manly Isaacs Prize in Legal Methods (Research & Writing), 2004

Donald Fergus Paynter Memorial Award for Leadership, British Columbia Youth Parliament, 1999, 2003

# Board Experience

2020-2024

## **E-Comm Emergency Communications for British Columbia Inc.**

- Governance and Public Affairs Committee

2003-2006, 2008-2010

## **Youth Parliament of British Columbia Alumni Society**

- Risk Management
- Camp Phoenix Steering Committee

1999-2003

## **UBC Student Legal Fund Society**

- President (2002-2003)
- Vice-President (2001-2002)

# Selected Presentations

The Law of Parks: Pacific Business & Law Institute (2022)

Case Law Update: State Bar of Texas, 37th Annual Advanced Government Law Conference (2025)

A Canadian Lawyer Walks Into the Texas Bar: Texas City Attorneys Association (2024)

AI & IT for JDs: Texas City Attorneys Association (2025) (with Laura Mueller)

# Key Skills

- Contract Drafting
- Negotiation
- Government Procurement
- Municipal Law
- Utilities Law
- Ethics
- Open Meetings
- Public Records
- Real Estate
- Land Use
- Legal Team Leadership
- Litigation Oversight
- Legislative Drafting
- Automation

## 2017-2021

City of Abbotsford: Abbotsford, BC, Canada

### **Director, Property, Risk Management & Legal Services**

I joined the City as its first attorney and built a corporate legal department that now includes 3 attorneys, 2 legal assistants, and 24 non-legal professionals.

After proactively identifying and analyzing the opportunities and risks, I pitched, negotiated, drafted, and executed a 20 year partnership agreement to host an American Hockey League team responsible for operating a City arena at a fixed cost below our historical subsidy and with revenue sharing opportunities. Annual savings approaching \$1.5M resulted as fan attendance and regional enthusiasm grows and events continue to increase utilization rate.

Developed and presented oral arguments on behalf of the City as intervenor in a municipal tort liability/governmental immunity case before the Supreme Court of Canada.

Following the retirement of the City's claims manager, I reallocated aspects of the claims and risk management function between external and other internal resources to reduce City expenditures while significantly increasing the efficiency, transparency, and consistency of our claims handling.

Replaced the City's manual process for reviewing, approving and paying external counsel invoices with a secure electronic system that provided detailed analytics and reporting for the City's outside legal services budget in excess of \$1M.

## 2015-2017

British Columbia Hydro & Power Authority: Vancouver, BC, Canada

### **Corporate Secretary**

I provided guidance on all aspects of BC Hydro's corporate governance framework including management of the entire board meeting process lifecycle, maintaining corporate records, and advising on ethics issues.

I redesigned the Board report management workflow using a customized SharePoint site to securely track agenda items and route a large volume of reports for approval and dissemination to Board members based on user and group permissions. The improved process allowed for the redeployment of 1.5 full-time equivalent positions (FTEs).

## 2009-2015

British Columbia Hydro & Power Authority: Vancouver, BC, Canada

### **Legal Counsel**

I was the attorney with primary responsibility for the electrical utility's civil litigation matters including contract disputes, privacy, procurement, construction, property damage, and personal injury, as well as advising on regulatory and occupational health and safety matters.

I devised and launched a litigation campaign to civilly prosecute over 100 defendants for stolen electricity used to power illegal drug operations, which resulted in substantial recoveries and contributed to the eventual elimination of electricity theft in BC.

## 2007-2009

DLA Piper (Canada) LLP (formerly Davis LLP): Vancouver, BC, Canada

### **Litigation Associate**

## 2006-2007

Federal Court: Ottawa, ON, Canada

### **Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Michael A. Kelen**