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# Village of Kronenwetter Proposal for Legal Services

Remzy D. Bitar

Date of Submission: November 12, 2025

Village of Kronenwetter Legal Services Proposal November 12, 2025

## A. Letter of Transmittal. (See attached.)

#### B. Table of Contents.

C. Executive Summary	Page 2		
D. Proposal Content	2 2		
		3. References	4
		4. Philosophy	
5. Conflicts of Interest	5		
6. Closing Thoughts			

#### C. Executive Summary

This proposal is for corporation counsel legal services to the Village of Kronenwetter. Our entire practice is devoted to representing municipalities and municipal interests. We believe we have unmatched experience in all of the fields of general municipal law, because we represent more than 200 municipalities in various capacities. Our fees are reasonable, and given our experience, we believe we can perform the work in a fraction of the time that might be required by others, resulting in lower costs to you. We consider ourselves to be experts in our one area of practice, and we have the necessary depth in our attorney and paralegal staff to promptly serve every need that may arise. Thank you for considering our proposal.

## **D. Proposal Content**

## 1. Hourly cost for services, as well as other itemized billing that the City would expect to incur or be responsible for.

Our billing rate for regular municipal work is \$227 per hour, and that would apply to this representation of the Village of Kronenwetter. Billing increments are tenths of an hour, with a minimum charge of \$30 for reviewing documents and emails/messages and a minimum charge of \$35 for all other work. All of our attorneys charge the same rates. We invoice monthly, with each time entry itemized.

If any expenses are incurred on your behalf, which is not common, that would be subject to prior approval and would be itemized on the billing statement. We have a full Westlaw subscription, all states and federal, with a municipal package that is <u>included</u> in our services, so online legal research is not billed to you. Our time is charged portal to portal for work outside the office (if travel serves several clients, it is apportioned equally).

#### 2. Personal resume of the applicant

We offer Remzy D. Bitar to serve as the City Attorney. Remzy has practiced municipal law for more than 24 years. Remzy's current principal responsibilities include being the lead attorney for several of the firm's clients, specifically the Villages of Salem Lakes, Vernon, Somers; the Towns of Spring Prairie and Jackson; and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance (LWMMI) and Wisconsin Municipal Mutual Insurance Company (WMMIC). Remzy assists

Village of Kronenwetter Legal Services Proposal November 12, 2025

in the representation of all of the firm's municipal clients. Remzy is also a regular speaker at municipal conferences hosted by the Wisconsin Towns Association, the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and other municipal government groups and entities, and is the recipient of a "Leaders in the Law" recognition by the Wisconsin Law Journal and repeatedly as a "Super Lawyer" by Thompson Reuters.

While Remzy will be the lead attorney, he believes in a team mentality and involving others within the firm depending on their special knowledge/experience, the nature of the project, and workflow. The attorneys assigned in our office to work for the Village of Kronenwetter will therefore include every member of our firm depending on the issue that may be involved. In our firm, each of the individual attorneys has special expertise, so we would assign the attorney that is most qualified to address the particular issues involved. General municipal issues are primarily handled by Remzy, Eric Larson, Luke Logic, Hailey Lipinski, Savanna Gain and Luke Martell. Litigation related matters would likely be assigned to Remzy Bitar, Samantha Schmid, Luke Martell or Adam Meyers. Tax assessment matters are handled by Jamie Staffaroni. Municipal prosecution matters are handled by Christopher Schultz and Luke Martell. Other attorneys and paralegals within the office would likely participate in the representation depending upon the issues involved. A short profile of our attorneys is as follows, and more complete biographical information is available in the attached municipal resume and on our website (www.municipallawsc.com).

Paul E. Alexy Municipal Attorney since 1987 Remzy D. Bitar Municipal and Civil Rights Litigator Insurance Defense since 2001

Stephen J. Centinario, Jr.
Traffic Prosecutor
Former Deputy Waukesha County D.A.

Savanna M. Gain Municipal Litigator since 2024

Eric J. Larson, Shareholder Municipal Attorney since 1990

Hailey R. Lipinski Municipal Litigator since 2025

Lucas C. Logic Municipal Litigator since 2021 John P. Macy, Shareholder Municipal Attorney since 1980

Luke A. Martell Municipal Litigator since 2016

Adam J. Meyers Municipal Litigator since 2020

Gregory M. Procopio Municipal Litigator since 2022

H. Stanley Riffle, Shareholder Municipal Attorney since 1980

Samantha Schmid

Christopher R. Schultz Traffic Prosecutor since 2009

Municipal Litigator since 2014

Jaime Staffaroni

Municipal Litigator since 2004

Village of Kronenwetter Legal Services Proposal November 12, 2025

Please see the attached firm resume.

Our specialty is the practice of municipal law, and all of its various aspects. So, for example, on development issues, we have a thorough understanding of the municipal perspective, and the terms that municipalities should require to best protect the municipal interests and ensure that development projects are successful for the community. In real estate matters, we are experts in knowing how municipalities should buy and sell land and property. We have expertise in all areas of municipal regulation, whether alcohol beverage licensing, short-term rentals, and all other regulatory issues faced by municipalities routinely. We do not represent developers, we do not represent private interests who appear before municipalities or sue municipalities, so our advice to you is never compromised by those relationships. You always receive advice from our firm that fairly and appropriately reflects the municipal interest in the legal issues. As we do this for dozens of municipalities throughout the state, there are rarely issues that you will face that we have not considered previously on behalf of other municipal clients.

#### 3. References

A list of all current municipal government clients is included in the attached municipal resume.

Please feel free to contact any one of our clients identified therein. Particular client contacts and phone numbers that may be of interest are these:

Village of Salem Lakes
Serve as Village Attorney; all municipal representation
Interim Administrator Jay Shambeau
Village President Rita Bucur
Village Clerk Sara Spencer
9814 Antioch Road (STH 83)
Salem, WI, 53168
(262) 843-2313

Jay: jay@public-advisors.com
Rita: rbucur@voslwi.gov
Sara: sspencer@voslwi.gov

Village of Vernon
Serve as Village Attorney; all municipal representation
Administrator Karen Schuh
W249s8910 Center Dr, Big Bend, WI 53103
(262) 567-2757
kschuh@villageofvernonwi.org

Town of Spring Prairie

Village of Kronenwetter Legal Services Proposal November 12, 2025

Serve as Village Attorney; all municipal representation Jeff Sunderman, Town Chair Ashley Dewart, Town Clerk N6097 State Road 120 Burlington, Wisconsin 53105 (262) 642-7477

Jeff: <a href="mailto:chair@townofspringprairiewi.gov">chair@townofspringprairiewi.gov</a>
Ashley: <a href="mailto:clerk@townofspringprairiewi.gov">clerk@townofspringprairiewi.gov</a>

LWMMI, League of Wisconsin Municipalities Insurance CEO Matt Becker 316 W. Washington Ave., Suite 600 Madison, WI 53703 (608) 833-9595 matt@lwmmi.org

### 4. Statement of personal philosophy

Our philosophy is that we provide legal advice and leave the policy choices to the public officials. When we begin work with a new client, we bring no set agenda to the relationship. We want to serve the client in the way that the client wants to be served. If we are selected we would request the opportunity to meet with you in person, tour the community with you, be briefed on any pending hot topics, and establish basic expectations that you have for our services. In that meeting we would clarify who within the City is authorized to contact us and assign projects, what regular meetings require our attendance whether in person or remote, and the practices that will be employed to ensure our advice can be proactive rather than reactive in our service to the community.

#### 5. Statement concerning conflicts

We do not envision having conflicts. That said, certainly if conflicts would arise, we would advise you of the conflict, and if it cannot be waived, we would recommend that you seek special counsel. Of the governments in Marathon County, we have represented the County on several occasions over the years, including currently, in litigation matters, primarily in defense of the Sheriff's Office but in other matters as well. We have also represented the City of Wausau and other Villages and Towns in Marathon County as Special Counsel on unique projects. For all those matters between the County, Villages and Towns, we are aware of no past or pending project that poses a conflict.

## 6. Closing thoughts

Our firm was created in 1984, when a core group of attorneys separated from a previous law firm in order to focus exclusively on the representation of municipalities. The firm has existed continuously, with this same municipal law focus for 40 years. We currently have thirteen full-time lawyers in the office, one attorney who assists part-time, one law clerk, two paralegals, two

Village of Kronenwetter Legal Services Proposal November 12, 2025

legal assistants and an Office Manager, all dedicated exclusively to the practice of municipal law. We only represent municipalities, not citizens, developers or other entities that might appear before municipalities or might contest actions taken by municipalities.

Our practice is somewhat unique in the State of Wisconsin. While many law firms engage in the practice of municipal law, very few do so exclusively. Of the ones that do so exclusively, we are significantly larger and, therefore, have been fortunate to serve clients statewide. We believe our model provides us with a wide perspective on the issues faced by municipalities. That perspective allows for an exceptional ability to quickly understand the legal issues that you may face along with the ability to quickly offer solutions that have worked to solve such issues, and the experience to implement those solutions on your behalf. Thank you for considering our proposal.