



# COUNTY ATTORNEY

## \$119,161 - \$148,398

*Plus Excellent Benefits*

*Apply by*

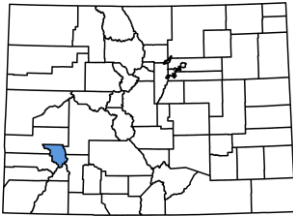
**June 13, 2021**

*(First Review, Open Until Filled)*

***P*ROTHMAN**



**OURAY COUNTY, COLORADO**



Ouray County lies in southwest Colorado and encompasses a diverse landscape, including the headwaters of the Uncompahgre River in the high country of the San

Juan Mountains, the broad mesas of the Uncompahgre Plateau region, and the valley of the Uncompahgre River. The county covers 542 square miles, has a population of approximately 4,800 residents, and has two incorporated municipalities: The City of Ouray and the Town of Ridgway. Visitors from around the world are drawn to Ouray County for its history, natural beauty, and variety of outdoor activities. The quality of Ouray County is unmatched anywhere else in the world. The County’s unparalleled scenery, numerous historic buildings, wide range of affordable and comfortable lodging, unique artisan shops and galleries, diverse restaurants, and countless recreational opportunities available year-round keep visitors coming back and residents continually enjoying the gem that is Ouray County.

The City of Ouray, the county seat, is known as the “Switzerland of America” due to the snow-capped San Juan Mountains rising on three and a half sides of the City. The City was named after Chief Ouray of the Ute Indians and was established by miners looking for silver and gold. In 1875, Ouray had more than thirty active gold and silver mines, which still play a part in the region’s history today. While active mining operations and agriculture remain a vital and active part of life in Ouray County, tourism now forms the basis of its economy. The mountains and canyons surrounding Ouray are filled with some of the West’s most unforgettable scenery. The region is known as “The Jeeping Capital of the World” due to its extreme high mountain passes and rugged winding roads which bring adventurers to flower-filled meadows and scenic valleys. It is also known for its Ice Park, which brings ice climbers from around the world to partake in this extreme sport. Residents and visitors can also experience world-class climbing, backcountry and cross-country skiing, and snowshoeing or visit the famous, sulfur-free Ouray Hot Springs Pool that offers nearly one-million gallons of naturally heated water that is enjoyable in any season.



To the north of Ouray in central Ouray County, the Town of Ridgway is known as a welcoming, community-minded rural town with charismatic energy, situated in a beautiful mountain valley. The town served as the headquarters of the world-famous Rio Grande Southern narrow-gauge railroad which served the area’s rich silver and gold mines, ranches, and farms. Today local museums and events preserve the history of the now defunct railroad and the heritage of traditional ranching lifestyles. The few remaining pastures surrounded by public lands and wilderness provide picturesque habitat for an amazing wildlife presence, from the elk and deer to the diverse birds and bald eagles. Ridgway also offers trails for walkers, hikers and bikers, excellent fishing opportunities, and snow sports that are enjoyed several months out of the year. For those looking to stay indoors, the town’s lively music and theater scene provides weekly afternoon and evening entertainment, and local restaurants provide diverse menus with fresh, locally sourced ingredients and creative dishes.



## THE COUNTY

Ouray County operates with 67 FTEs on a 2021 total budget of \$14,960,876. The County operates under the direction of a 3-member Board of County Commissioners, each elected to one of three districts. The Board hires a County Administrator who directs the day-to-day operations of Ouray County government. Departments of the County include Administrator, Assessor, Attorney, Clerk & Recorder, Coroner, District Attorney, Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Fairgrounds and 4-H Event Center, Finance, GIS, Human Resources, Information Technology, Land Use & Planning, Maintenance, Public Health, Public Trustee, Road & Bridge, Sheriff, Social Services, Treasurer, and Weed Control.

## THE POSITION

The County Attorney serves as the legal advisor to the Board of County Commissioners of Ouray County, as well as to all elected officials, county departments and to Board appointed commissions and boards. The County Attorney also manages all legal affairs in which Ouray County may be involved, and assures that all contracts, deeds, bonds, and other official documents are approved for form and are valid and enforceable.

### Responsibilities Include:

- Provide legal advice, counsel and guidance to the Board, elected officials, departments, other Board appointed commissions or boards.
- Attend regular, special, and other Board and Planning Commission meetings and advises on the use of executive sessions when necessary.
- Research, draft or review all resolutions, ordinances, policies and legal opinions for the Board and other elected officials and departments.
- Research laws, regulations, statutes, rules, and precedent in order to ensure compliance and provide advice and opinions as to how such laws, regulations, statutes, rules, or precedent apply to county issues and policy.
- Negotiate, draft and/or review all contracts, intergovernmental agreements, Memoranda of Understanding or other legally binding agreements.
- Represent Ouray County, county officials or employees in litigation or enforcement actions or coordinate representation through outside counsel, including appeals when necessary.



- Monitor changes in statutes and case law for impact on county government, county officials and departments and advise the Board of same.
- Develop legal compliance training as needed for elected officials, staff, or the Board.
- Identify, recommend, develop, and implement policies, procedures, and practices to reduce the County's exposure to legal liability and to proactively find solutions to emerging issues.
- Develop and recommend budget requests for the Department and ensures fiscal compliance with such budget.
- May include representation of Department of Social Services to include child welfare and adult protection.
- Work closely with County Planner and Land Use Staff regarding County Master Plan, review of Land Use Staff Reports and Presentations (such as PowerPoint) concerning "issue" items prior to submittal to County Administrator for Board Packets or submittal to Planning Commission for PC packets and collaborate when appropriate on presentations on Land Use Code or Master Plan topics or issues.
- Collaborate on Land Use Code revisions or additions with County Planner including crafting language to articulate stated goals, criteria, and standards.
- Work closely with County Administrator on issues that affect Ouray County.
- Assist with Code Enforcement issues including reviewing Notices prepared by Land Use Staff or Building Inspector and provide appropriate legal opinions as required.

**IDEAL CANDIDATE**

**Education & Experience:**

A Juris Doctorate from an accredited law school, and a minimum of ten (10) years of legal experience is required. Candidates must be a member of the bar in good standing in Colorado and admitted to practice before the courts of the State of Colorado. An emphasis in local government law, litigation, and land use is desirable. Knowledge of water law is also desirable.

**Necessary Knowledge, Skills & Abilities:**

- Ability and experience performing conclusive legal research related to a variety of areas including but not limited to land use and planning; personnel issues; road rights-of-way and threats to public access; local government powers; property tax issues; contracts; law enforcement issues; child welfare; election laws.
- Ability to interact with others effectively and cooperatively.
- Ability to analyze data quickly and thoroughly and respond to requests for opinions on the spot.
- Articulate the potential legal consequences of political and/or business decisions and separate the role of County Attorney as legal advisor and decision maker from those of other non-legal advisors and decision makers.
- Able to work effectively under pressure of deadlines hearings or trials, preparation of all documents, proofreading, and calendaring.
- Self-directed and able to effectively manage time so that tasks are completed in an efficient manner and deadlines are met.

- Ability to perform all duties associated with the County Attorney’s Office including administrative functions such as copying, filing and e-filing, mailing, and preparation for court.

**COMPENSATION & BENEFITS**

- **\$119,161 - \$148,398 DOQ**
- Health Insurance (covers the premium for the employee)
- Life Insurance (covers \$10,000 for the employee) - additional coverage can be purchased.
- Offers Dental and Vision insurance
- Offers ancillary coverage options like Cancer insurance, Accident Insurance, Additional Life Insurance, etc.
- Retirement (5% paid for by employee and matched by the County at 5%)
- Offers the ability to participate in a 457 Deferred Compensation Plan
- Nine to ten paid holidays annually
- Vacation accrual and leave
- Personal Leave
- Sick Leave

**For more information, please visit:  
[www.ouraycountyco.gov](http://www.ouraycountyco.gov)**



Ouray County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All qualified candidates are strongly encouraged to apply by **June 13, 2021** (first review, open until filled). Applications will only be accepted electronically. To **apply online**, go to [www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com) and click on "**Open Recruitments**" followed by "**County Attorney – Ouray County, CO**" and follow the directions provided, or please [click here](#). Page 1 top right photo provided by Ouray County via Lora Slawitschka.



**[www.prothman.com](http://www.prothman.com)**

371 NE Gilman Blvd., Suite 310  
 Issaquah, WA 98027  
 206.368.0050