

**CLASS SPECIFICATION**  
**SAN DIEGO CITY CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**PRINCIPAL PARALEGAL – 1147**

NOTE: formerly PRINCIPAL LEGAL ASSISTANT

**DEFINITION:**

Under direction, to train, supervise, and review the work of subordinate Senior Paralegals within the division; to perform the most difficult, complex, and sensitive paralegal duties; and to perform related work.

**\* EXAMPLES OF DUTIES:**

- Assigns, monitors, and evaluates the work of subordinates;
- Develops work standards and procedures for paralegal staff;
- Develops, coordinates, and conducts on-going training programs related to paralegal development and continuing education;
- Resolves difficult conflicts between legal support staff and Deputy City Attorneys;
- Counsels legal teams on effective utilization of paralegal staff;
- Performs paralegal duties involving the most difficult, sensitive, and/or high profile criminal and civil matters;
- Oversees the operation of a Legal Intern Training Program;
- Prepares Legal Intern evaluations;
- Establishes work standards and procedures;
- Evaluates and makes recommendations for required staffing levels, including the use of temporary staffing;
- Drafts a variety of the most complex legal documents including interrogatories, complaints, defense pleadings, motions to compel discovery, responses to discovery motions, pretrial statements, requests for admissions, notices to produce, and responses to notices to produce;
- Reviews legislative initiatives and makes recommendations to attorneys regarding the effects of proposed legislation;
- Drafts new and revised City ordinance language to be reviewed by attorneys;
- Reviews and revises contract language to be reviewed by attorneys;
- Acts as a liaison to City departments to provide answers to routine legal questions and to research the more complex questions, and provides research information to attorneys;
- Identifies, requests, and examines various public records;
- Conducts legal and statistical research;
- Arranges for subpoenas duces tecum and depositions;
- Prepares drafts of deposition questions and summarizes depositions;
- Performs related work.

\* **EXAMPLES OF DUTIES** performed by employees in this class. The list may not include all required duties, nor are all listed tasks necessarily performed by everyone in this class.

**MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:**

Please note: the minimum qualifications stated below are a guide for determining the education, training, experience, special skills, and/or license which may be required for employment in the class. These are re-evaluated each time the position is opened for recruitment. Please refer to the most recent Job Description for updated minimum qualifications: <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/sandiego/classspecs>.

Bachelor's Degree or equivalent education (minimum completed units = 120 semester/180 quarter), **OR** College graduation with a Jurisprudence Doctorate Degree in Law from an academic institution accredited by the American Association of Law Schools (AALS), American Bar Association (ABA), California State Supreme Court, or California State Bar Examining Committee, **OR** completion of a formalized Paralegal Training Program accredited by the American Bar Association (ABA), **OR** completion of a formalized Paralegal Training Program that includes a minimum of 24 semester units in law related courses; **AND** three years of full-time paralegal work experience, including one year of experience as a Senior Paralegal with the City of San Diego.