



ST. LUCIE COUNTY, FL
INVITES YOUR INTEREST IN THE POSITION OF
COUNTY ATTORNEY

THE COMMUNITY

Located along the beautiful Atlantic Coast in southeast Florida, St. Lucie County is about 120 miles south of Orlando and 60 miles north of West Palm Beach. Known as the Jewel of the Treasure Coast, the County has a subtropical climate with mild winters and warm, breezy summers. The County has a unique blend of old Florida with new, fast-growing communities and all the amenities, attractions, and adventures needed for an exceptional quality of life.

Incorporated in 1905, St. Lucie County is included in the Port St. Lucie, FL Metropolitan Statistical Area, which is also included in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-Port St. Lucie, FL Combined Statistical Area. Incorporated areas include the City of Fort Pierce (county seat), City of Port St. Lucie, and St. Lucie Village, among others. St. Lucie County encompasses 688 square miles, of which 116 are water. The County has 21 miles of beaches, and almost half the coastline is public preservation.

Between 2000 and 2010, St. Lucie was one of the fastest-growing counties in the U.S., with a total population increase of more than 80,000 during that timeframe. Today, the County is still experiencing exponential growth. According to the 2020 U.S. Census, the population was 329,226, with an estimated population of 385,746 in 2024, representing a 17% increase in four years.

St. Lucie County has taken significant steps to preserve its over 100-year history and heritage. Through a voter-approved referendum, County Commissioners have secured more than 11,000 acres of environmentally sensitive lands for conservation and passive recreation, in addition to offering over 2,300 acres of active parks and beaches.

The area economy has evolved into a blend of diverse sectors, including manufacturing, professional services, headquarters, marine, aviation, life sciences, aquaculture, and distribution/logistics. St. Lucie County is business-friendly and supports economic growth, including a proven speed-to-market process, which results in quick approvals for qualified projects. Florida's stable and highly favorable tax climate provides advantages that make this location profitable for every type of business.



THE COUNTY

St. Lucie County has a Commission/Administrator form of government. The Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) is the legislative body consisting of five members elected at large.

The Commission establishes policy by enacting ordinances, resolutions, and motions.

The BOCC also approves the budget, determines the tax rates, and focuses on the community's goals, major projects, and long-term considerations such as community growth, land use development, capital improvement plans, capital financing, and strategic planning.

The Board of County Commissioners appoints the County Administrator and the County Attorney. There are five constitutional officers, including Clerk of the Circuit Court, Property Appraiser, Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Tax Collector. The County has over 20 Departments, which include some unique services such as Airport (general aviation), Port Inlet & Beaches, and Tourism & Venues.

The County has 924 FTEs and a recommended FY2026 Total Budget of \$883 million, which includes a General Fund of \$274 million and a Capital Fund of \$161 million.

THE POSITION

The County Attorney's Office provides legal advice, legal counsel, and legal representation to the Board of County Commissioners, County Administration, and various boards and committees created by the BOCC on substantive legal issues involving such matters as the regulation, use, and development of land; contracts, bidding, and purchasing requirements; personnel, compliance with State and Federal regulations; utility and general administrative issues; and litigation.

The County Attorney's Office has a total of 38 staff members, 28 of whom are in the Criminal Justice Division. In 2005, the County Attorney was assigned responsibility of supervising the Criminal Justice Director. The Director is responsible for implementing the criminal justice system assessment action plan and carrying out the County's directives, which includes, but is not limited to, gathering data,

programs oversight, implementing initiatives, and coordinating task forces. This position identifies areas that need improvement and develops strategies that impact the criminal justice system.

The duties and responsibilities of the County Attorney include, but are not limited to:

- Manages the Office that represents the County in all legal matters affecting the County government.
- Attends meetings of the BOCC and committees to provide advice and legal counsel thereof or, as appropriate, delegates this responsibility and oversees the outcomes.
- Manages the legal team that advises the BOCC, County Administrator, Boards, and Commissions appointed thereby, County departments, and Constitutional Officers regarding legal questions. Represents the BOCC before various State departments and other governmental subdivisions.
- Assures that the team responds to citizen questions, concerns, and complaints; researches problems; and formulates solutions and responses. Advises the County Administrator accordingly.
- Collaborates and cooperates with the County Leadership team to deliver work on time and within budget.
- Assumes responsibility for the completion of assigned projects/workload. Ensures assigned work is completed within established deadlines in accordance with policies and procedures.
- Assists and coordinates with County Administration on negotiations and associated agreements and contracts.
- Oversees drafts of contracts, resolutions, and ordinances, including special legislative acts.
- Provides technical guidance and supervises the work of legal and clerical assistants.
- Exercises final authority regarding hiring, performance evaluation, termination, disciplinary, and/or commendatory action for assigned personnel by using the County performance review system and employment protocols, processes, and procedures.
- Prepares the Departmental budget and assures the office operates within the parameters of the adopted budget.
- Provides support and legal advice to the County Administrator and keeps County Administration informed on all legal matters.
- Provides counsel to Constitutional Officers upon request.
- Represents the Canvassing Board during elections.
- Performs other duties as assigned.



THE IDEAL CANDIDATE

After many years of dedicated service, the current County Attorney is retiring, and the Board is seeking candidates with solid legal skills and experience to help guide the County long-term as it continues to grow. The ideal candidate will:

- Keep the Commissioners equally informed and provide them with options and choices to consider, along with associated risks.
- Be approachable, accessible, responsive, and decisive.
- Work effectively with departments and agencies as a supportive, service-oriented team player.
- Provide strong leadership with a collaborative management style.
- Possess excellent verbal and written communication skills, expressing legal terminology in layperson's terms.
- Have a reputation for being accountable, fair, ethical, and trustworthy. Must be transparent, honest, and forthcoming.
- Demonstrate sound, independent judgment, and tact.
- Maintain security and confidentiality.
- Understand importance of being politically astute while remaining apolitical.
- Have substantial administrative and management experience with a public/private legal practice.
 - Possess knowledge of legal principles and concepts related to local government law, including Florida Sunshine and public record laws, and have experience in applying them properly.

The selected candidate will manage a considerable workload and effectively establish expectations, processes, and procedures within the County Attorney's Office, resulting in high-quality work with attention to detail and rapid responsiveness.

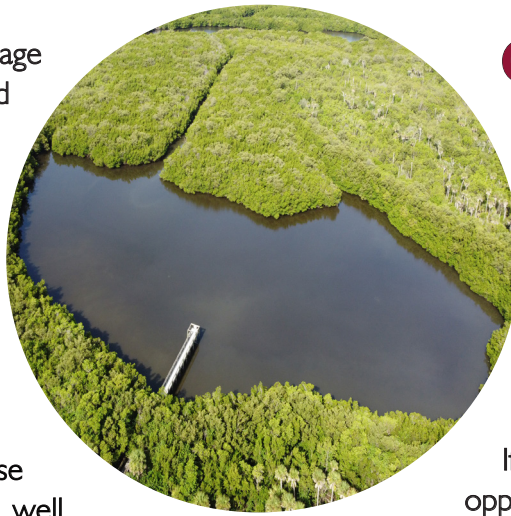
The selected candidate will also assess the use of resources relative to handling legal matters in-house versus using outside counsel, as well as reviewing existing and future agreements to ensure they represent the County's best interest.

The next County Attorney will have exceptional interpersonal and communication skills and provide honest and upfront advice, including when dealing with controversial matters.

Requirements include a Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university; a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from an accredited college of law; and a minimum of ten (10) years of progressively responsible legal experience, with five (5) years in government law and civil practice. A minimum of five (5) years supervising other attorneys is required. Must be in "good standing" with the Florida Bar and have a valid Florida Driver's License with a clean driving record.

Experience in one or more of the following is essential: civil or criminal trials or administrative hearings, code enforcement, environmental and land use, public contracts, public purchasing, public finance, real estate, and employment law. Board certification in Local Government with the Florida Bar is preferred.

Preferred candidates will have legal experience in growth management, land use, or exposure to land use law, as well as experience in environmental, contractual, employment, historic preservation, public utilities law, and a background working for a fast-growing community. Experience in transactional law and litigation is a plus.



COMPENSATION

The salary range is open, depending on qualifications, and is accompanied by an attractive benefits package. All employees are subject to being required to report to work during a declared disaster.

TO APPLY

If you are interested in this outstanding opportunity, visit www.SRNsearch.com and apply online. The first review of resumes will take place on November 3, 2025; the position is open until filled. Resumes will be screened according to the qualifications outlined above. Screening interviews with the most qualified applicants will be conducted by S. Renée Narloch & Associates to determine a select group of finalist candidates who will be asked to provide references; references will be contacted only following candidate consent. Final interviews will be held with St. Lucie Board of County Commissioners. Candidates will be advised of the status of the recruitment following the selection of the County Attorney. Questions regarding this recruitment should be directed to:

Ms. S. Renée Narloch, President

Mr. Elliott Pervinich, Vice President

S. Renée Narloch & Associates

info@SRNsearch.com | 850.391.0000

www.SRNsearch.com

St. Lucie County is an equal-opportunity employer. In accordance with Florida's Public Records/Sunshine Laws, resumes and applications are subject to public disclosure.



S. RENÉE NARLOCH
& ASSOCIATES

PROFESSIONAL EXECUTIVE RECRUITMENT