



# SAN DIEGO CITY ATTORNEY JAN I. GOLDSMITH

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **CITY AND COUNTY TO SWAP LAWYERS**

**San Diego, CA:** The City of San Diego and County of San Diego will occasionally swap lawyers under a proposal approved by both the City Council and Board of Supervisors. The proposal brought forward jointly by San Diego City Attorney Jan Goldsmith and County Counsel John Sansone is designed to help both entities save money on hiring of outside counsel.

“When it is necessary under the law to hire outside lawyers, it sure is nice to have the option of using County Counsel’s office rather than spending \$400 per hour on private law firms,” Goldsmith stated. “We will take it slow, but it will save taxpayers money on both the City and County levels. And, all of our City taxpayers are also County taxpayers.”

Under the proposal, the two offices will keep track of hours and balance them out on an annual basis rather than submit invoices.

The County Board of Supervisors approved the Memorandum of Understanding and cross-representation agreement at their board meeting on April 21, 2009. The City Council approved the proposal today.

“We applaud County Counsel John Sansone and City Attorney Jan Goldsmith for their collaborative efforts. This makes a lot of sense and will save a lot of money. This is what government should be about,” said County Board of Supervisor Greg Cox.

“I join my colleagues in thanking County Counsel John Sansone and City Attorney Jan Goldsmith for putting together this agreement. This new partnership will allow for shared use of experienced attorneys in each of the offices. This is a really good deal for taxpayers,” stated Dianne Jacobs, Chairwoman, County Board of Supervisors.

The term of the agreement is for five years from the effective date and can be terminated on either side with ten days notice. Legal services are limited to matters where the interests of the City and County do not conflict.

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