



**ORTHODOX
CHURCH in
AMERICA**



General Counsel

Candidate Profile

Mission Statement of the Orthodox Church in America



The Mission of the Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous Orthodox Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling the commandment of Christ to “Go into all the world and make disciples of all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all [things that He has] commanded” so that all people may be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth:

To preach, in accordance with God’s will, the fullness of the gospel of the Kingdom to the peoples of North America and to invite them to become members of the Orthodox Church.

To utilize for her mission the various languages of the peoples of this continent.

To be the body of Christ in North America and to be faithful to the tradition of the Holy Orthodox Church.

To witness to the truth, and by God’s grace and in the power of the Holy Spirit, to reveal Christ’s way of sanctification and eternal salvation to all.

Adopted by the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, 1990.

The Orthodox Church in America is seeking is dynamic, energetic and highly accomplished Christian leader to become its next General Counsel.

The Holy Synod of Bishops



The Holy Synod of Bishops is the supreme canonical authority in the Church. It includes, as voting members, all the diocesan bishops of the Church. The Metropolitan is the *ex officio* Chairman of the Synod. In case of his absence, a Chairman is elected by the diocesan bishops present.



General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America: Candidate Profile

The General Counsel of the Orthodox Church in America (GC/OCA) shall be an attorney licensed to practice law in one or more states of the United States or holding an analogous license in Canada or the United Mexican States. If not licensed to practice law in the State of New York, GC/OCA shall seek and secure registration as in-house counsel pursuant to the provisions of the Rules for the Registration of In-House Counsel (Part 522, Rules §522.1 through §522.8. [inclusive] of the Rules of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, 22 NYCRR Part 522, as now existing or as may hereafter be amended). GC/OCA shall in addition have a knowledge of and be conversant in the theological, moral, dogmatic, and ecclesiological principles and tenets of the Orthodox Christian faith generally and the Orthodox Church in America specifically. In addition, GC/OCA shall be a person of integrity with a manner of life consistent with the moral principles of the Orthodox Church in America.

GC/OCA shall serve as the principal and primary source of legal advice and counsel to the Orthodox Church in America, a religious corporation created under and by virtue of the Laws of the State of New York, Chapter 519 of the Laws of New York of 1972, effective May 24, 1972. In that capacity GC/OCA shall be reasonably available for such legal advice and counsel to the Primate of the Orthodox Church of America, the Holy Synod of Bishops of the Orthodox Church in America, and the Officers of the Church, including its Chancellor, its Secretary, and its Treasurer as may be necessary from time to time. GC/OCA shall also support the work of diocesan and parish attorneys and other national, regional, and local entities of the Orthodox Church in America by providing uniform assistance on constitutional, tax, litigation and other matters as assigned by the Primate, the Holy Synod, and the Officers of the OCA.

The GC/OCA shall have special expertise in national and state tax exemption and associated lobbying and political activity restrictions, Church-related social security and pension plan issues, immigration, international aspects of Church interests, education, civil rights, pro-life, and communications. These areas shall be of concern to the GC/OCA in the context of church-state relations in the United States, in Canada, and in the United Mexican States

as these are maintained by the Orthodox Church in America and with particular attention to their impact on not-for-profit entities within those political jurisdictions.

GC/OCA shall assist the Orthodox Church in America in its legislative activities by analyzing and drafting legislation and in preparing testimony and position papers in support of such legislation and shall participate in rule making and other political and governmental agency proceedings as reasonably required. GC/OCA shall also represent the Orthodox Church in America in litigation where the Orthodox Church in America is a named party as plaintiff or defendant or as amicus curiae and shall coordinate and support the efforts of diocesan and parish counsel in litigation and other matters potentially affecting the Orthodox Church in America.

With the consent of the Primate of the Orthodox Church in America GC/OCA may engage in relevant research and the publication of scholarly works on issues of interest and concern to the Orthodox Church in America and may in addition engage in public speaking and academic colloquia on issues of law and policy bearing on the life and activities of the Church.

The Orthodox Church in America shall annually enter into a contract of employment with GC/OCA regarding salary and emoluments consistent with the needs and resources of the Church and premised on the assumption that GC/OCA shall be permitted to engage in the practice of law and in professional pursuits other than the performance of duties for the Church. The contract of employment shall reflect terms in these respects which are competitive with those prevailing in similar organizations.

The GC/OCA ideally shall be a member in good standing of an OCA parish or mission, but OCA affiliation is not a requirement for the position.

SELECTION PROCESS

The recruitment of the General Counsel is being conducted on a national basis. The process for this recruitment is highly confidential. References will not be contacted until mutual interest has been established. All applications and candidates will initially be screened and evaluated by the OCA's Selection Committee. Initial Interviews with the Selection Committee will be scheduled to take place [date], with final candidate interviews with the Holy Synod [date].

COMPENSATION

The OCA is prepared to offer the selected candidate a compensation package that is competitive with similar organizations.

HOW TO APPLY

Interested and qualified individuals are invited to submit a letter of interest, resume, and writing sample, electronically to the Chairman of the Selection Committee, Hon. E.R. Lanier at erlanier@aol.com. All materials should be received by August 10, 2015. The position will remain open until filled.

OCA Chancery

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The Orthodox Church in America

The Mission of The Orthodox Church in America, the local autocephalous Orthodox Christian Church, is to be faithful in fulfilling the commandment of Christ to “Go into all the world and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...”

Founded in 1794 — Granted Autocephaly in 1970