

tion with the powers and duties of the Commission and of the members thereof, and generally to perform all duties and services as attorney and counsel to the Commission which the Commission may reasonably require of him, whenever, application, protest or other form of complaint is made to the Commission of or concerning any act or omission, any service, regulation, equipment, appliance or facilities, or the adequacy or quality thereof, any preferences or advantage or any prejudice, disadvantage or any discrimination, any rates, tolls, fares or charges, or any regulations or practices with respect thereto, or of or concerning any other matter or thing done, permitted, maintained or omitted to be done by any person, firm or corporation, subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission, with respect to any of the requirements imposed by the Public Service Commission Law, by any other law, by any charter, franchise or ordinance, by any order of this Commission or otherwise, it shall be the duty of said General Counsel in person or through an assistant, whenever the Commission shall so direct, upon a prima facie case, or otherwise, or when there shall appear to the Commission to be any reasonable ground for investigating, or further investigating, such application, complaint or protest, to participate in the preparation or reforming of the pleadings before the Commission, if need be, or investigating or further investigating the facts or evidence upon which the application, complaint or protest is based or may be based and to appear before the Commission in respect to investigations or in support of applications or complaints by or on behalf of or in the interest of the public or in defense of the public interests when involved and subject to the order of the Commission the services of the experts employed by said Commission as well as the records and other facilities of the Commission shall be availed of by said General Counsel or his assistant in the performance of these public duties; provided that nothing herein contained shall be construed to prevent any party or interest in any proceeding before said Commission from appearing in person or from being represented by counsel.

The assistant, or assistants appointed by the General Counsel shall perform such other duties as the General Counsel may prescribe. All actions and proceedings under this act, and all actions and proceedings commenced and prosecuted by order of the Commission, and all actions and proceedings to which the Commission may be a party and in which any question arises under this act, or under or concerning any order or action of the Commission, shall be preferred over all other civil causes except election causes, in all the Courts of the State of