

Solicitors shall have charge, subject to the direction and control of the City Solicitor, of the examination of all titles on behalf of the city, and in doing such work he shall be aided by such person as the City Solicitor shall employ for the purpose out of the funds appropriated by the annual ordinance of estimates to his department for general expenses, or out of the proceeds of loans or other sums appropriated by the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore to defray the cost of public improvements or work involving the examination of titles on behalf of the city.

In relation to the powers and duties of the City Solicitor and his authority in representing the city in suits prior to the enactment of the new City Charter, *see*, Balto. v. Ritchie, 51 Md. 233. Ireton v. Baltimore, 61 Md. 432. Dugan v. Mayor, 70 Md. 7, 8. M. & C. C. of Balto. v. Turnpike Co., 80 Md. 546.

City Solicitor not a ministerial officer.

Gross v. M. & C. C., 111 Md. 543.

1898, ch. 123.

63. The City Solicitor shall give advice and opinions in writing upon any legal questions affecting the interest of the city, which may be submitted to him in writing by the Mayor or the City Council, or any Committee thereof, or the head of any department, or a special commission or board. All deeds, bonds, contracts and other legal instruments involving the interest of the city or to be executed by or passed to the Mayor or other officer of the city shall, before they are executed or accepted, be submitted to the City Solicitor and have endorsed upon them his opinion as to their sufficiency and their compliance in terms and conditions with the laws or ordinances under which they are executed. It shall be the duty of all officers and departments of the city to submit all such bonds, contracts or other written instruments to the City Solicitor for his approval before executing or accepting the same.

1898, ch. 123.

64. The Law Department shall have its offices and headquarters in such rooms in the City Hall, or elsewhere, as the Mayor may designate, to be provided and furnished at the expense of the city, and which shall be open on all business days between the hours of 9 A. M. and 3 P. M. All papers and documents relating to the legal business of the city shall be permanently filed in said office.

1898, ch. 123. 1904, ch. 112. 1906, ch. 206.

65. The City Solicitor is authorized to employ, in addition to the assistants to one of the Assistant City Solicitors mentioned in Section 62 of this Charter, at a total cost not exceeding the aggregate amount therefor affixed by the annual ordinance of estimates, a clerk, stenographer and typewriter, and such other assistants of every kind as he may require, who shall at all times be subject to his orders. The said clerk shall, subject to the direction of the City Solicitor, have charge and custody of the office and papers of the Law Department, which shall be arranged and indexed by him in such convenient and orderly manner as to be at all times readily accessible. He shall also keep in said office a complete