

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 People's Counsel, upon a prima facie case, or otherwise, 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 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 People's Counsel 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.

All actions and proceedings under this sub-title, 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 sub-title, 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 States of Maryland, and shall be heard and determined in preference to all other civil business pending therein, excepting election causes, irrespective of position on the dockets of said Courts. The same preference shall be granted upon application of the People's Counsel to the Commission in any action or proceedings in which the People's Counsel may be allowed to intervene.

The Attorney General shall be the legal adviser and representative of the Public Service Commission, and he shall advise the Commission and each Commissioner, when so requested, in regard to all matters in connection with the powers and duties of the Commission and of the members thereof, and perform all duties and services as attorney and counsel to the Commission which the Commission may reasonably require of him. The Attorney General is authorized to assign to his assistants, and to each of them, the performance, subject to his direction and control, of any of the duties required of him by this Section.

419. Every commissioner, the People's Counsel, the secretary of the commission and every person employed or appoint-