

Office of School Board Attorney  
Phyllis O. Douglas, Board Attorney

**SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.**

The Board will recall that, recently, Judge Dimitrouleas, the judge currently assigned to the School Board's desegregation case, gave the Board until September 29, 2000, to report on the unitary status of the system in order for the Court to withdraw from the case, after a public hearing to be held in early December, 2000. In the September, 2000 report, the School Board must address whether the school district has maintained a unitary status and whether there exists any likelihood that resegregation will occur if supervision by the Court is withdrawn.

In order to gather the information necessary for the report and to ascertain any deficiencies which might decrease the School Board's chances of obtaining unitary status and the proper method to correct same, the Board Attorney would like to engage the services of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. and, specifically, Maree Sneed of that firm. Ms. Sneed and her associates will assist in-house counsel in gathering this documentation and presenting it to the Court, both at the report level and during the hearing.

Hogan & Hartson's standard rates for partners in the Education Group are \$290 to \$340 per hour and for associates are \$150 to \$205 per hour. The firm has offered the School Board a 15 percent discount on these fees, which means that their rates would range from \$247 to \$289 per hour for partners and from \$128 to \$175 per hour for associates. Ms. Sneed's standard rate is \$310 per hour and her discounted rate is \$264 per hour. Additionally, Hogan & Hartson has agreed to be reimbursed for travel in accordance with the Florida Statute on same.

**RECOMMENDED:** That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, contract with the law firm of Hogan & Hartson L.L.P. as follows:

The Board will pay Hogan & Hartson partners and associates their standard rates discounted by 15 percent. For partners, these rates will be from \$247 to \$289 per hour, and for associates, from \$128 to \$175 per hour.