

Office of School Board Attorney
Johnny Brown, Board Attorney

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION TO CONTRACT THE LAW FIRM OF LEIBOWITZ AND ASSOCIATES, P.A. TO REPRESENT THE BOARD IN ALL LEGAL MATTERS BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

COMMITTEE: PERSONNEL SERVICES, MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETING

The administrative staff of WLRN Public Television and Radio would like to engage new legal counsel with a local office to represent the station and School Board in its media properties (WLRN-TV Channel 17, WLRN-DT Channel 20, WLRN-FM 91.3, 16 ITFS Channels) in all legal matters before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

The current firm representing the Board, Paul, Hastings, Janofsky & Walker LLP, located in Washington, D.C., has been representing the station for several years, but does not have a local office to provide the direct services staff believes are needed in the changing South Florida telecommunications market.

Qualifications were requested of three local firms that specialize in broadcasting issues with complete knowledge of FCC regulatory matters. The law firm of Leibowitz and Associates, P.A., a Miami-based law firm with extensive experience in communications law was selected and is being recommended to the Board for approval. The fees for their legal services have been structured as follows:

Matthew L. Leibowitz	\$400/hr.	Nicki J. Fernandez	150/hr.
Joseph A. Belisle	300/hr.	Sr. Paralegal	125/hr.
Ila L. Feld	275/hr.	Paralegal	85/hr.

REVISED

The cost of these services is estimated at \$50,000 per year.

The appropriations for these services are included in the 2002-03 General Fund Budget under Fund 0100, Object 5390, Location 9606, Program 7010, Function 6240.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida contract with the law firm of Leibowitz and Associates, P.A. to represent the Board in all legal matters before the Federal Communications Commission, as follows:

The Board will pay Leibowitz and Associates, P.A., \$400 per hour for work done by Mr. Leibowitz, rates of \$300, \$275, and \$150 per hour for associates Belisle, Feld and Fernandez, respectively, and \$85 and \$125 per hour for paralegal and senior paralegal work, respectively, not to exceed a total of \$50,000 annually without additional approval by the Board.

REVISED

REVISED-2

C-4

MEMORANDUM

November 20, 2002

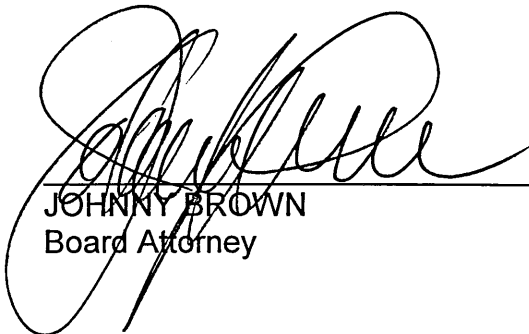
TO: Chair and Members of The School Board
of Miami-Dade County, Florida

Mr. Merrett R. Stierheim, Superintendent of Schools

FROM: Attorney's Office

SUBJECT: CONTRACT WITH THE LAW FIRM OF LEIBOWITZ & ASSOCIATES, P.A.
FOR FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS REPRESENTATION (Associated with
Agenda Item C-4, Revised-2)

Attached hereto please find a letter dated November 19, 2002, from Leibowitz & Associates, P.A., further reducing their rates in connection with the proposed contract for FCC legal services. Please note that Mr. Leibowitz has reduced his rate to \$400.00 per hour, and Mr. Belisle's and Mr. Feld's rates to \$300.00 and \$275.00, respectively.



JOHNNY BROWN
Board Attorney

JB:pr

cc: Mr. Mayco Villafañía
Mr. John LaBonia

LEIBOWITZ & ASSOCIATES, P.A.

SUITE 1460

SUNTRUST INTERNATIONAL CENTER
ONE SOUTHEAST THIRD AVENUE
MIAMI, FLORIDA 33131-1716

JOSEPH A. BELISLE
ILA L. FELD
MATTHEW L. LEIBOWITZ

TELEPHONE (305) 530-1322
TELECOPIER (305) 530-9417
E-MAIL Firm@broadlaw.com

November 19, 2002

Johnny Brown, Esq.
Miami-Dade School Board
1450 NE 2nd Avenue
SBAB 400
Miami, Florida 33132

Dear Johnny:

I appreciate your call this afternoon regarding our prospective retention by the School Board with respect to WLRN.

As I noted during our discussion, I have already reduced my current rate from \$450.00 to \$425.00 at the request of John Labonia.

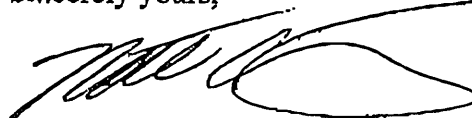
However, in light of our discussion, I am willing to further reduce my rate from a current rate of \$450.00 to \$400.00, Joe Belisle's rate from \$325.00 to \$300.00 and Ila Feld's rate from \$300.00 to \$275.00.

As a resident of Miami Beach and a parent of children, one of whom presently attends North Miami Beach Elementary School, I am firmly committed to our public school system and believe it is incumbent upon local citizens and businesses to support the school system.

Please find attached hereto a revised Attorney-Client Agreement reflecting the lower rates. If there are any other questions, please feel free to call.

Best regards.

Sincerely yours,



Matthew L. Leibowitz

MLL:kg
Enclosures