

Office of Superintendent of Schools
Board Meeting of July 11, 2007

July 6, 2007

Office of School Board Attorney
JulieAnn Rico, School Board Attorney

SUBJECT: PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY AND GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

At the School Board meeting of January 17, 2007, the Board Attorney presented her Performance Goals & Initiatives for Calendar Year 2007. As previously advised, one of the School Board Attorney's initiatives was to issue a Request for Information (RFI) in Fiscal Year 2007 for the selection of outside counsel and conflict counsel for the Board for specialized fields of practice. This process was a collaborative effort between the School Board Attorney's Office and the Office of Risk and Benefits Management.

A process for review and evaluation of all proposing firms was conducted by committees consisting of Board Attorneys, Risk Management Staff, and other appropriate District Staff.

RFI numbers 061-GG10 and 081-GG10 were issued to 49 attorneys and firms, as well as a posting on the District's Procurement website. Proposals were opened at the regular bid openings which took place on May 1, 2007 and June 7, 2007.

Proposals submitted pursuant to this RFI establish a list of pre-approved attorneys at the hourly rate specified therein, but do not preclude the Board from retaining other attorneys where the totality of circumstances surrounding the facts so warrant. The District is not obligated to enter into contracts for legal services. Case assignments will be made by the Board Attorney (with input from appropriate District Staff) on an as-needed basis.

The RFI review process has been completed and it is recommended that the following law firms be approved for the provision of legal services. The following list of attorneys and firms represent the highest level of expertise at or below market rate fees. Having these firms under contract will facilitate increased efficiencies in case management.

- **Construction Litigation, Claims, General**
Becker & Paliakoff, P.A.
Rosen Switkes & Entin, P.L.
Shutts & Bowen LLP
Tew Cardenas LLP

REPLACEMENT

G-6

- **Concurrency, Zoning, Real Estate Planning and Development**

Becker & Paliakoff, P.A.

Weis Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.L.

- **Conflict Counsel**

Clyne & Associates, P.A.

Kelley Kronenberg Gilmartin Fichtel & Wander, P.A.

John R.W. Parsons, P.A.

Lydecker, Lee, Behar, Berga & DeZayas, LLC

Pyszka Blackmon Levy Mowers & Kelley, P.A

Shutts & Bowen LLP

- **Exceptional Student Education**

Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

Panza Mauer Maynard, et al

Vernis & Bowling, P.A.

- **Civil Rights/Constitutional Law**

Carlton Fields, P.A.

Clyne & Associates, P.A.

Panza Mauer Maynard, et al

Pyszka Blackmon Levy Mowers & Kelley, P.A.

- **General Automotive Liability, Professional Liability, Personal Injury Liability**

Angones McClure & Garcia, P.A.

Clyne & Associates, P.A.

John R.W. Parsons, P.A.

Panza Mauer Maynard, et al

Pyszka Blackmon Levy Mowers & Kelley, P.A.

Vernis & Bowling, P.A.

- **Workers' Compensation**

Angones McClure & Garcia, P.A.

Charlie Martinez, P.A.

Conroy Simberg Gannon Kreans & Abel, P.A.

Kelley Kronenberg Gilmartin Fichtel & Wander, P.A.

Law Office of Lorna E. Brown-Burton, P.A.

Rigell Ring Ardman Waterman & Wolfe, P.A.

Vernis & Bowling, P.A.

- **Technology**
Becker & Paliakoff, P.A.
Carlton Fields, P.A.

- **Eminent Domain**
Ruden McClosky
Weis Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.L.

- **General Civil Litigation**
Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.
Holland & Knight, P.A.
Panza Mauer Maynard, et al
Pyszka Blackmon Levy Mowers & Kelley, P.A.
Shutts & Bowen LLP
Weis Serota Helfman Pastoriza Cole & Boniske, P.L.

- **Immigration**
Holland & Knight LLP
Shutts & Bowen LLP

- **Criminal**
Clyne & Associates, P.A.
Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.

RECOMMENDED: That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Office of the School Board Attorney to contract on behalf of the Board for legal services for the above selected law firms up to the maximum rates quoted in the RFI for the respective practice areas for a term of up to three years, with an additional two year contract extension subject to further Board approval.

JMM/pc