

Financial Services  
Richard H. Hinds, Chief Financial Officer

**SUBJECT:                   REQUEST    AUTHORIZATION    TO    ENTER    INTO  
                                  CONTRACTUAL SERVICES AGREEMENTS, PURSUANT  
                                  TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 031-NN10 – LEGAL  
                                  SERVICES**

**COMMITTEE:                INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY & GOVERNMENTAL  
                                  RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC  
FRAMEWORK:               FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY/STABILITY**

The Request For Proposals No. 031-NN10 – Legal Services, is to obtain the legal services of outside counsel from the private sector with extensive legal experience to represent The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, in specific areas of expertise, on an as-needed basis, in order to facilitate increased efficiencies in case management, for the Office of the School Board Attorney. This is a term proposal. Forty-three (43) proposals were received in response to this advertised solicitation.

Proposals submitted pursuant to this Request For Proposals establish a list of pre-approved attorneys and firms, at the hourly rate specified therein, but do not preclude the Board from retaining other outside attorneys where the totality of circumstances surrounding the facts so warrant. The District is not obligated to enter into contracts for legal services with these firms, or base its selection on a rotational basis, and will contract with these firms on an as-needed basis, as determined at the sole discretion of the School Board Attorney. Accordingly the law firms recommended herein have no entitlement, nor expectation of being retained for future work with the District. The hourly rates for professional services set forth herein may be negotiated at lower rates, but shall not exceed the rates authorized by the Board.

The Evaluation Committee, consisting of Board Attorneys, Chief Financial Officer, Procurement Management Services, Office of Economic Opportunity, Risk and Benefits Management and other appropriate District staff, met on June 10, 2013 to evaluate proposals. After considerable deliberation, the committee unanimously selected the following firms to provide outside legal services, based on qualifications and experience in the specific area of expertise and ability to best meet the needs of the District. The Committee's recommendations for award are as follows:

## **CONSTRUCTION (Litigation, Claims, General)**

Barthet Firm, P.A.  
Becker and Poliakoff, P.A.  
Jason D. Katz, P.A.  
Lydecker Diaz  
Navarro Hernandez, P.L.  
Peterson & Espino, P.A.  
Smith Currie & Hancock, LLP  
Soto Law Group, P.A.  
Taylor Vega, P.A.  
Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Pastoriza, Cole & Boniske, P.L.

**The rates in this category are not to exceed \$295 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals. The Board Attorney's office may negotiate lower rates with the approved firms in order to obtain the best rate available.**

## **REAL ESTATE PLANNING (Land Use, Eminent Domain)**

Akerman Senterfitt & Eidson  
Gray Robinson, P.A.  
Weiss, Serota, Helfman, Pastoriza, Cole & Boniske, P.L.

**The rates in this category are not to exceed \$394 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals. The Board Attorney's office may negotiate lower rates with the approved firms in order to obtain the best rate available.**

## **WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

Angones, McClure & Garcia, P.A.  
Charlie Martinez, P.A.  
Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.  
Eduardo Neret, P.A.  
Edwards & Edwards, P.A.  
Haliczer Pettis & Schwamm, P.A.  
Isabel S. Martinez, P.A.  
Jones, Hurley and Hand, P.A.  
Kelley, Kronenberg, Gilmartin, Fichtel, Wander, Bamdas, Eskalyo & Dunbrack, P.A.  
Lydecker Diaz  
Michael J. Ring, LLC  
Wasserman & Thomas P.A.

The rates in this category are not to exceed \$120 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals. The Board Attorney's office may negotiate lower rates with the approved firms in order to obtain the best rate available.

**GENERAL LIABILITY (Professional, Personal and Automobile Injury Liability)**

Angones, McClure & Garcia, P.A.  
Arnstein & Lehr LLP  
Cole, Scott & Kissane, P.A.  
Haliczer Pettis & Schwamm, P.A.  
Kubicki Draper  
Lydecker Diaz  
Wasserman & Thomas P.A.

The rates in this category are not to exceed \$140 per hour for partners; \$125 per hour for associates; \$75 per hour for paralegals; and \$250 per hour for complex commercial litigation for partners. The Board Attorney's office may negotiate lower rates with the approved firms, in order to obtain the best rate available.

**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 with the above selected law firms at hourly rates that are not to exceed \$140 per hour for partners; \$250 per hour for partners in complex commercial litigation; \$125 per hour for associates; \$75 per hour for paralegals in General Liability; \$120 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals in Workers' Compensation; \$295 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals in Construction; \$394 per hour for partners and \$75 per hour for paralegals in Real Estate; for a term up to three years, with two additional one-year contract extensions, subject to further Board approval, effective July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016, including extensions thereto, as follows:

1. AKERMAN SENTERFITT & EIDSON  
ONE S.E. THIRD AVENUE, 25 FLOOR  
MIAMI, FL 33131
2. ANGONES, MCCLURE & GARCIA, P.A.  
44 WEST FLAGLER STREET, EIGHTH FLOOR  
MIAMI, FL 33130

3. ARNSTEIN & LEHR LLP  
200 S. BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, SUITE 3600  
MIAMI, FL 33131
4. BECKER & POLIAKOFF, P.A.  
121 ALHAMBRA PLAZA, 10 FLOOR  
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
5. CHARLIE MARTINEZ, P.A.  
8005 N.W. 155 STREET, SUITE A  
MIAMI LAKES, FL 33016
6. COLE, SCOTT & KISSANE, P.A.  
9150 S. DADELAND BOULEVARD, SUITE 1400  
MIAMI, FL 33156
7. EDUARDO E. NERET, P.A.  
799 BRICKELL PLAZA, SUITE 702  
MIAMI, FL 33131
8. EDWARDS & EDWARDS, P.A. M/WBE  
2200 S. DIXIE HIGHWAY, SUITE 605  
MIAMI, FL 33133
9. GRAY ROBINSON, P.A.  
1221 BRICKELL AVENUE, SUITE 1600  
MIAMI, FL 33131
10. HALICZER PETTIS & SCHWAMM, P.A.  
ONE FINANCIAL PLAZA, 100 S.E. THIRD AVENUE  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33394
11. ISABEL S. MARTINEZ, P.A. M/WBE SBE  
2655 LEJEUNE ROAD, SUITE 809  
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
12. JASON D. KATZ, P.A.  
3325 S. UNIVERSITY DRIVE, SUITE 210  
DAVIE, FL 33328
13. JONES, HURLEY & HAND, P.A.  
1395 BRICKELL AVENUE, SUITE 800  
MIAMI, FL 33131

14. KELLEY, KRONENBERG, GILMARTIN, FICHTEL,  
WANDER, BAMDAS, ESKALYO & DUNBRACK, P.A.  
15600 N.W. 67 AVENUE, SUITE 204  
MIAMI LAKES, FL 33014
15. KUBICKI DRAPER  
25 WEST FLAGLER STREET, PENTHOUSE  
MIAMI, FL 33130
16. LYDECKER DIAZ  
1221 BRICKELL AVENUE, 19 FLOOR  
MIAMI, FL 33131
17. MICHAEL J. RING, LLC  
440 E. SAMPLE ROAD, SUITE 103  
POMPANO BEACH, FL 33064
18. NAVARRO HERNANDEZ, P.L.  
2151 LEJEUNE ROAD, SUITE 300  
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
19. PETERSON & ESPINO, P.A.  
10631 S.W. 88 STREET, SUITE 220  
MIAMI, FL 33176
20. SMITH, CURRIE & HANCOCK LLP  
101 N.E. THIRD AVENUE, SUITE 1910  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
21. SOTO LAW GROUP, P.A.  
2400 E. COMMERCIAL BOULEVARD, SUITE 400  
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33308
22. TAYLOR VEGA, P.A.  
2555 PONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD, SUITE 220  
CORAL GABLES, FL 33134
23. THE BARTHET FIRM, P.A.  
200 SOUTH BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, SUITE 1800  
MIAMI, FL 33131

24. WASSERMAN & THOMAS, P.A.  
12550 BISCAYNE BOULEVARD, SUITE 403  
MIAMI, FL 33181
  
25. WEISS, SEROTA, HELFMAN, PASTORIZA, COLE &  
BONISKE, P.L.  
2525 PONCE DE LEON BOULEVARD, SUITE 700  
MIAMI, FL 33134

RHH/ae