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GILA COUNTY

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PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT NO. 041415
LEGAL SERVICES

I. GENERAL STATEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, made and entered into this _____ day of _____, **2015,** by and between the Superior Court in Gila County, hereinafter designated the **COURT, RONALD DEBRIGIDA** of the City of Glendale, County of Maricopa, State of Arizona, hereinafter called the **ATTORNEY**, for professional legal defense services from **JULY 1, 2015 to JUNE 30, 2016.** The Attorney has a professional duty to the Court, to his/her clients, and to opposing counsel in providing legal services for persons found to be indigent or for whom the Court is required to provide legal counsel in Gila County.

By signing this Contract, the Attorney agrees to maintain the credentials necessary to practice law in the courts of the State of Arizona and to do so in a competent, professional, ethical manner and as an officer of the Court at all times.

The Attorney has a duty to the Court to be prepared, prompt, comply with Court rules, submit timely reports, attend meetings with the Court, accept appointments within the main category of assignment as well as those outside the main category when circumstances require, and complete cases assigned during the term of the contract.

The Attorney has a duty to his/her clients to keep them advised of the status of their cases, be available for consultation, and to diligently represent their interests.

The Attorney has a duty to opposing counsel to cooperate with scheduling and prompt disposition of the case.

The Attorney is required to purchase, maintain and provide proof of coverage for Lawyers Professional Liability insurance with a minimum limit of $250,000 per occurrence and $500,000 aggregate; Attorney shall provide a Certificate of Insurance naming Gila County and the Superior Court of Gila County as additional insureds.

II. TERM OF AGREEMENT

A. Period Covered: It is understood between the undersigned attorney, **RONALD DEBRIGIDA** and the **SUPERIOR COURT OF GILA COUNTY** that the attorney will accept appointments to represent persons found to be indigent or for whom the Court is required to provide legal counsel in Gila County, from **JULY 1, 2015 to JUNE 30, 2016.**

The County shall have the option to renew the contract for two (2) additional one (1) year periods, upon agreement of both parties.

B. Termination: Upon thirty (30) days written notice, either party may terminate this agreement without cause. The attorney would be expected to complete any assignments made prior to such termination.

C. A.R.S. §38-511: This agreement is subject to the cancellation provisions of A.R.S. §38-511.

D. Arizona Legal Workers Act: Pursuant to A.R.S. § 41-4401, Provider hereby warrants that it will at all times during the term of this Agreement comply with all federal immigration laws applicable to Provider's employment of its employees, and with the requirements of A.R.S. § 23-214 (A) (together the "State and Federal Immigration Laws"). Provider shall further ensure that each approved subcontractor who performs any work for Provider under this Agreement likewise complies with the State and Federal Immigration Laws. County shall have the right at any time to inspect the books and records of Provider and any approved subcontractor performing services under this Agreement in order to verify such party's compliance with the State and Federal Immigration Laws.

Any breach of Provider's or any approved subcontractor's warranty of compliance with the State and Federal Immigration Laws, or of any other provision of this section, shall be deemed to be a material breach of this Agreement subjecting Provider to penalties up to and including suspension or termination of this Contract. If the breach is by an approved subcontractor, and the subcontractor is suspended or terminated as a result, Provider shall be required to take such steps as may be necessary to either self-perform the services that would have been provided under the subcontract or retain an approved replacement subcontract as soon as possible so as not to delay completion of Provider's obligations.

Provider shall advise each approved subcontractor of County's rights, and the subcontractor's obligations, under this Article by including a provision in each subcontract substantially in the following form:

"Subcontractor hereby warrants that it will at all times during the term of this contract comply with all federal immigration laws applicable to Subcontractor's employees, and with the requirements of A.R.S. § 23-214 (A). Subcontractor further agrees that County may inspect the Subcontractor's books and records to insure that Subcontractor is in compliance with these requirements. Any breach of this paragraph by Subcontractor will be deemed to be a material breach of this contract subjecting Subcontractor to penalties up to and including suspension or termination of this contract."

III. COMPENSATION, COSTS, AND BILLING PROCEDURES

A. Compensation: The Attorney agrees to provide legal services for the sum of **EIGHTY TWO THOUSAND, FIVE HUNDRED AND SIXTY DOLLARS ($82,560.00) PER YEAR,** payable at the rate of **SIX THOUSAND, EIGHT HUNDRED AND EIGHTY DOLLARS ($6880.00) PER MONTH,** subject to the terms of this Contract and subject to acceptance of the Superior Court budget by the Board of Supervisors. Invoices may be submitted bi-weekly for payment in Net 15. Payment for said invoice amount will be issued fifteen (15) days from the date Gila County receives the invoice, with agreement of the Attorney and with approval by the Court Administrator and the Presiding Judge.

B. Court Payment of Costs and Expenses:

1) **Routine expenses:** Routine expenses such as photocopying, postage, travel and other operating expenses are not reimbursed by the Court, and are a personal expense of the attorney.

2) **Extraordinary Costs:** The Attorney should file a motion **in advance** requesting approval for any extraordinary costs he/she wants paid by the County. This includes such items as transcripts (besides Grand Jury or appeal transcripts), expert witness fees, depositions, investigators, or any other extraordinary cost.

3) **Personal Expense:** Costs incurred without prior approval of the Court may be treated as a personal expense of the attorney.

4) **Costs Which Could Have Been Avoided:** Court expenses which could have been avoided had the Attorney been prepared, such as jury costs for a trial that did not go, Rule 11 evaluation costs for which the defendant did not show because of failure of the attorney to timely obtain an Order for Transport or reschedule the appointment, expedited transcripts, etc., may be charged back to the attorney as a personal cost.

C. Billing Procedures for Legal Services Provided for Indigents:

1) **Submission and Payment:** The Attorney may submit an invoice bi-weekly for each month's services.

2) **Statistical Report:** The Court requires the attorney to prepare a statistical report summarizing his/her appointments and case activity each month on a statistical recap form and backup list of cases. Invoices are to be submitted only after the previous month's statistical report has been completed. The statistical report is due by the 10th of each month for the preceding month's appointments and concluded cases. (For example, appointments and dispositions made during July would be due by August 10). The statistical report for the previous month should be submitted with the bill for the current month's services. (For example, the bill for services in August would be submitted with the statistical information for July).

IV. CONTRACT CATEGORY, CONFLICTS, REASSIGNMENT

A. Contract Category: To the extent practicable, the attorney will be primarily assigned **Class 1-6 Felony cases,** and will be subject to appointments in other contract categories, including but not limited to Misdemeanor, Delinquency, Dependency, and Mental Health cases, (due to problems such as conflicts or insufficient number of contract attorneys for that category or geographical area) which may be made from time to time. Some of the Rule 32 issues and appeals may also be assigned to him/her rather than to the contract attorneys who are assigned appellate work.

B. Conflicts: to accommodate the Court and reduce expense to counsel, conflicts will be first assigned (without additional compensation) to another attorney in the same geographical area served, even if outside the normal category of service, then outside the geographical area.

C. Reassignment of Case: When the Attorney has been allowed to withdraw because the case is assigned to another Attorney, the withdrawn Attorney should promptly turn over his/her file to the new Attorney and notify him/her of any pending hearing dates and the status of the case. Assignment to a case that is outside the normal category covered by this contract is not sufficient grounds for reassignment.

D. Rule 32's and Appeals: Separate contracts exist for Rule 32's and appeals. However, circumstances may exist which would warrant a Rule 32 or appeal being assigned to a regular contract attorney and not the appellate contract attorneys, and such assignments may be made to the regular contract attorney without additional compensation.

V. SPECIFIC DUTIES OF COUNSEL

A. Readiness and Promptness for Court:

1) **Readiness and Promptness:** The Attorney agrees to **be prepared and appear in Court promptly at or before the time set for hearings** and not to rely on Court staff to notify or have to locate him/her when court is ready to proceed. The attorney agrees to discuss the case with her client **before the time set for hearing, not at the time set for hearing.**

2) **Law and Motion Day:** The Attorney agrees to be present for Law and Motion day and Pre-trial Conferences as scheduled. If a substitute attorney is necessary, the attorney agrees to arrange for and update the substitute on case status so the hearing can proceed rather than be continued.

3) **Delays:** In the event the attorney will be late due to unforeseen circumstances, he/she agrees to communicate the delay and an anticipated arrival time as soon as practicable.

B. Meetings with the Court: The Attorney agrees to attend administrative meetings with the Court when, and as, scheduled regarding the court calendar, procedures, and contract issues.

C. Statistical Reports: The Attorney agrees to accurately complete and submit the caseload and summary statistical information regarding the Attorney's appointments each month as required by the Court when submitting monthly bills for services rendered.

D. Criminal Case Processing: The Attorney acknowledges that the Arizona Supreme Court has adopted a goal of processing Ninety Percent (90%) of all criminal cases within one hundred (100) days. Gila County will be undergoing a criminal case re-engineering process with services of a consultant, and local criminal procedures may change as a result. The Attorney agrees to assist the Court in working on and obtaining those goals.

E. Dependency Case: The Attorney acknowledges that the Arizona State Legislature enacted new legislation that became effective January 01, 1999, and drastically changed the procedure for dependency cases. The Attorney agrees to become familiar with these procedures, and accept appointments made to a dependency case when circumstances necessitate such appointments.

F. Contact with and Representation of Client:

1) **Office:** The Attorney agrees to maintain regular office hours and have a method for clients to contact him/her in an emergency outside of regular hours. Preferably, the office will be in the area the Attorney is serving.

2) **Communication and Representation:** The Attorney agrees to promptly return phone calls and respond to correspondence, to obtain clients' consent before requesting that hearings and appointments be rescheduled, to interview witnesses, to issue subpoenas, and in other ways deal professionally with the client and diligently represent the clients' interests.

3) **Calendar:** The Attorney agrees to calendar his cases when they are scheduled for hearing, rather than relying on court staff to advise what is scheduled for him/her each week. The Attorney agrees to be the primary source of case information for the client. (Clients calling the Court trying to ascertain case information, clients failing to appear for hearings due to lack of notice, or clients appearing for hearings that have been changed is an indication of unavailability of counsel).

4) **Completion of Case:** The Attorney agrees to continue to represent any client on cases to which he/she was appointed during the term of this contract until the case is completed or he/she is relieved of that representation by order of the Court, regardless of the termination of the contract, and without additional compensation.

G. Attorney Files: The Attorney should retain his/her file for no less than five (5) years after the last action taken in the case.

VI. PLEADINGS AND CASE MANAGEMENT PROCEDURES

A. Motions and Orders:

1) **Timeliness and Basis:** Motions should be filed sufficiently in advance of trials/hearings to allow for response and reply. The Attorney acknowledges the requirements of good cause, supported by specific legal and factual basis, in submitting motions to the Court.

2) **Copies:** Copies of motions should be sent to the assigned judge and the court administrator.

3) **Oral Argument:** If oral argument is requested, a form of notice wherein the court administrator may insert the date and time for oral argument to be conducted should be submitted.

4) **Telephone Conference:** Prior approval by the Court to conduct oral argument by telephone conference call should be obtained, and the requesting attorney is responsible for initiating the call to the Court at the date and time scheduled for hearing.

5) **Non-Appearance Calendar:** Motions filed without request for oral argument and which do not require an evidentiary hearing will be placed on the Court's non-appearance calendar for submission to the Court after the time for response and reply have passed.

6) **Expedited Action:** If action is sought prior to the expiration of the time for response and reply, the motion should clearly identify that fact and indicate whether the prosecutor or any co-defendant objects to the requested relief.

7) **Orders:** Orders for the Court's signature should be prepared as a separate document containing the standard case heading, and should not be included as an integral part of stipulations, motions, or other pleadings.

B. Facsimile:

1) **Temporary Pleadings:** Facsimile documents are intended to serve as temporary pleadings only.

2) **Originals:** After faxing a document, the Attorney should submit an original document (without modification) within ten (10) days of transmission of the facsimile so that the Clerk can substitute the original for the facsimile in the Court file.

3) **Consent:** If a facsimile needs to serve as an original, the Attorney should obtain consent of the assigned judge to submit the facsimile as an original.

C. Pre-Trial Conference:

1) **Personal Attendance:** The Attorney and the defendant must be personally present.

2) **Discovery:** The Attorney should complete discovery by pre-trial conference so that motions to compel, motions for sanctions, etc., are unnecessary, and hearing does not need to be continued.

3) **Hearing Motions:** Simple motions that do not require evidentiary hearing can be heard at the pre-trial conference, and should be filed with sufficient time for response before the pre-trial conference. Motions to suppress, voluntariness hearings, and other such matters requiring evidentiary hearings will be scheduled for a time other than the pre-trial conference.

4) **Continuances:** Continuances of the pre-trial conference are to be avoided.

D. Special Management/Settlement Conferences:

1) **Personal Appearance:** The Attorney and the defendant must be personally present.

2) **Request:** Any party may request a special management/settlement conference. Normally the conference will be held by a judge other than the assigned judge.

3) **Purpose:** The purpose is to help identify and resolve problems preventing the case from being completed, and may include discussion of possible plea agreements, diversion/deferral, ancillary motions such as discovery disputes and motions to continue.

4) **Assigned Judge:** Setting does not affect the assignment of trial judge, nor does it vacate any court dates set in the case. Substantive issues of law and case-dispositive hearings are to be decided by the assigned trial judge.

E. Deadline Date for Plea Agreements: Plea negotiations should be completed by the first pre-trial conference date. If the Court sets a plea negotiation deadline, counsel acknowledges that submission of plea agreements after that date may not be accepted by the Court.

F. Delinquency Cases: All contract attorneys, not just those who primarily are assigned to represent juveniles in delinquency matters, are subject to being "on call" for representing juveniles who have been detained at accelerated hearings held on weekends and holidays.

G. Dependency Cases: Dependency cases require that the attorney and parties personally appear at accelerated pre-hearing conferences and preliminary protective hearings. Attorney should familiarize themselves with dependency procedures that became effective on January 01, 1999.

H. Motions to Continue:

1) **Procedure:** Continuances should be avoided and only sought for good cause. When expedited action is requested, the Attorney should contact the defendant, any co-defendants' counsel, and prosecutor, advise them of the request, and indicate in the motion whether they object to the continuance.

2) **Order:** If there will be no objection, the Attorney should also submit an Order Continuing for the Courts' signature. The Attorney should not assume a continuance will be granted because there is no objection, and is responsible for ensuring that a continuance was granted and new dates have been assigned.

3) **Sanctions:** Sanctions, including jury costs and other court costs, may be imposed for late requests for continuances, whether granted or not.

I. Motions and Orders to Transport:

1) **Preparation:** When a defendant is in custody in Gila County, the Attorney should prepare a motion and order to transport so the defendant can be transported to proceedings, such as Rule 11 evaluations, outside of Gila County. When a defendant is in custody outside of Gila County, the Attorney should prepare a motion and order to transport so the defendant can be transported to any pre-trial hearings, trial, or post-trial hearings before the Court in Gila County.

2) **Time:** Motions and orders to transport should be prepared sufficiently in advance to permit Court action and notice to the Sheriff's Office to accomplish timely transportation.

3) **Video-Conferencing:** The Court may utilize video-conferencing for Court hearings. The Attorney is to become familiar with policies and procedures for video-conferencing when it is used.

J. Rule 11 Evaluations:

1) **Defendant's Attendance:** The Attorney should make sure the defendant is aware of and appears for scheduled Rule 11 appointments, or prepare a Motion to Transport and Order and make arrangements with the Sheriff's Office in sufficient time for the Sheriff to transport the defendant to the appointment.

2) **Rescheduling:** If an appointment needs to be rescheduled, the Attorney should make such arrangements with the evaluator so as to avoid a billing for a "No Show".

3) **Expense:** If the Attorney has filed a motion in advance and obtained Court approval, the Rule 11 evaluation will be an expense to the Court for the amount approved. If the defendant fails to appear for an evaluation, and the expert bills for a "No Show", such cost may be assessed to the Attorney as a personal expense.

K. Interpreters:

1) **Notice:** The Attorney should give the Court at least one week advance notice when an interpreter will be necessary to ensure an interpreter can be scheduled.

2) **Permission:** The Attorney should get court permission in advance to use an interpreter at court expense for interviews, depositions, etc.

3) **Attorney Presence:** The Attorney should be present with the interpreter during interviews, depositions, and attorney-client discussions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, three (3) identical counterparts of this contract, each which shall include original signatures and for all purposes be deemed an original thereof, have been duly executed by the parties hereinabove named, on the date and year first above written.

GILA COUNTY PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT NO. 041415

APPROVED:

Michael A. Pastor, Chairman of the Board

Ronald DeBrigida, Attorney

Marian Sheppard, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Bryan B. Chambers, Deputy County Attorney/Civil Bureau Chief
for Bradley D. Beauchamp, County Attorney

Peter J. Cahill, Presiding Judge