



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR

SPECIAL COUNSEL FOR

HIGHLANDS ACT LITIGATION

TO SERVE FOR A THREE-YEAR PERIOD

Date Issued: January 19, 2021

Question & Answer Cut-off Date: March 5, 2021

Proposals Due: March 19, 2021

HIGHLANDS WATER PROTECTION AND PLANNING COUNCIL
100 North Road, Chester, NJ, 07930

1.0 PURPOSE AND INTENT

The New Jersey Highlands Council (“Council”) is tasked with implementing the New Jersey Highlands Water Protection and Planning Act, N.J.S.A. 13:20-1 et seq. (the “Highlands Act”). The Council issues this Request for Qualifications (“RFQ”) intending to select Special Counsel for the Scope of Services as described in Section 2.0.

The Council will designate one or more of its staff lawyers (“Special Counsel Liaison”), who will be the sole point(s) of contact for all matters pertaining to this engagement and who will oversee and coordinate the activities of Special Counsel.

Each firm selected to serve as Special Counsel must comply with all local, State and federal laws, rules and regulations applicable to the engagement and to the services to be performed thereunder.

The law firm selected to serve as Special Counsel must designate for each matter assigned pursuant to this Request for Qualifications one lawyer in that firm who will be the principal point of contact and who will be primarily responsible for handling the matter on behalf of the State. Nonetheless, the firm may, consistent with the requirements of the Outside Counsel Guidelines described in Section 4.0, utilize more than one lawyer from the firm to provide legal services in any one matter.

1.1 MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

The Council seeks law firms with substantial experience with environmental and land use litigation under New Jersey Law, including, but not limited to, the Municipal Land Use Law, the State Uniform Construction Code, and the Highlands Act.

IN ADDITION, AT A MINIMUM:

Each lawyer who the firm proposes to be primarily responsible for matters assigned under this Request for Qualifications must have five or more years of experience in environmental and land use litigation.

2.0 SCOPE OF SERVICES

The firm(s) selected as Special Counsel will be required to handle all aspects of legal representation of local government units located in the Highlands Region in causes of action filed against the local government units that fall under N.J.S.A. 13:20-20, when required due to conflicts or potential conflicts or as otherwise deemed appropriate by the Council.

3.0 TERM

The term of the Special Counsel designation made pursuant to Section 10 of this RFQ will be for a period of three years, or until such time as the Council designates a new list of Special Counsel for litigation for matters falling under N.J.S.A. 13:20-20, and for a sufficient period to complete all matters for which the firm has been retained. The Council may remove for convenience any law firm from engagement as Special Counsel, upon written notice to the principal point of contact for the law firm. Other than this written notice, nothing in this RFQ creates any rights, entitlements, privileges, or presumptions in favor of a law firm that would constrain the Council's authority to remove a firm from being Special Counsel.

4.0 OUTSIDE COUNSEL GUIDELINES

Counsel designated as Special Counsel and retained on any specific matter shall be required to comply with the State of New Jersey, Department of Law and Public Safety's Outside Counsel Guidelines ("Guidelines"), as modified below, available for review at: ***<http://www.nj.gov/oag/law/pdf/rfqs/oag-dol-Outside-Counsel-Guidelines.pdf>***. All decisions

delegated to the State under the Guidelines will be made by the Highlands Council's Special Counsel Liaison. All communications with the State made by Special Counsel in accordance with the Guidelines should be directed to the Highlands Council's Special Counsel Liaison. The Guidelines may be updated from time to time. Law firms designated as Special Counsel agree that by submitting a proposal to this RFQ, the firm shall abide by the Guidelines as written, as well as with any updates that may be made during the term.

4.1 CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Section III of the Guidelines requires that counsel be free of any conflict of interest. Please note that the Council, as a public entity, is precluded by the Rules of Professional Conduct from waiving conflicts of interest. See RPC 1.7(a)(2) and RPC 1.7(b)(2). Law firms designated as Special Counsel, have a continuing obligation during the term to disclose any actual or potential conflicts to the Council. Additionally, retained Special Counsel shall not disclose any confidential information learned or received in any way as part of a retention, either during the retention or at any time after the retention has concluded.

4.2 BILLING

Special Counsel retained for a specific matter(s) shall be required to bill the Council for their services in accordance with the Guidelines. The Guidelines are hereby amended to delete any reference to "Counsel Link." Monthly invoices for services shall be submitted to the Special Counsel Liaison via email.

4.3 COSTS

Special Counsel shall have resources sufficient to advance all costs, including the costs of any necessary experts. Billing for costs shall be done in accordance with the Guidelines, as amended.

5.0 RFQ PROCESS

5.1 SUBMISSION

Proposals submitted in response to this RFQ shall consist of a completed cover sheet provided in Exhibit B, all forms and certifications required in Exhibit A, and a completed Diversity Questionnaire provided in Exhibit C (“Proposal”). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, no hard copies of the Proposals will be accepted. Interested firms shall create a Dropbox account or equivalent, upload the complete Proposal to the account, and provide a link for access. The link to the uploaded Proposal must be received no later than the due date set forth on the cover of the RFQ. The link shall be emailed to Ms. Christine LaRocca (christine.larocca@highlands.nj.gov). The subject line must be marked “Special Counsel Request for Qualifications for HIGHLANDS LITIGATION.” Late Proposals will not be considered.

5.2 RFQ QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

The Council will accept questions pertaining to this RFQ from all interested firms electronically. Questions shall be directed to Christine LaRocca, Chief Counsel, at the following email address: Christine.LaRocca@Highlands.NJ.gov.

Please note that the subject line of your email must specifically be marked “Question about Special Counsel Request for Qualifications for HIGHLANDS LITIGATION.” Questions will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. on the date for question and

answer cut off appearing on the cover of this RFQ. Answers to all questions received will be published solely as an addendum posted on the Council's website.

5.3 CLARIFICATION/ADDENDA TO THE RFQ

In the event the Council determines that additional clarification to this RFQ or additional information is necessary, the Council reserves the right to hold a conference call with eligible firms for the purpose of providing the same. In the event that it becomes necessary to clarify or revise this RFQ, such clarification or revision will be by addendum. Any addendum to this RFQ will become part of this RFQ and part of any designation of a firm as Special Counsel as a result of this RFQ. The due date for Proposals may be changed by an addendum.

Any addendum will be published solely on the Council's website:

<https://www.highlands.state.nj.us/njhighlands/news/>. No addendum will be mailed to any bidder, even if the bidder received the RFQ by mail for any reason.

5.4 SOLE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE BIDDER TO MONITOR FOR ADDENDA

It is the sole responsibility of the bidder to make itself knowledgeable of any addendum to this RFQ. Any addendum will be published solely on the Council's website.

5.5 PUBLIC RECORDS

All documents and information submitted in response to this RFQ generally shall be made available to the general public as required by applicable law.

5.6 STATE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR COSTS

The Council shall not be responsible for any expenses in the preparation and/or presentation of the Proposals and oral interviews, if any, or for the disclosure of any

information or material received in connection with the solicitation, whether by negligence or otherwise.

6.0 REQUIRED COMPONENTS OF PROPOSAL IN RESPONSE TO THIS RFQ

Proposals submitted in response to this RFQ must respond to each of the following requests in the order indicated. Please do not place each response on a separate piece of paper.

6.1 COVER SHEET

Complete the cover sheet attached as Exhibit B with the name, address of the law firm, contact information for this Proposal, and the number of attorneys in your firm. The number of attorneys in your firm shall be used to determine if your firm is a large or small law firm for purposes of developing lists of large and small firms to be designated as Special Counsel in order to further the State's interests in promoting small businesses and to facilitate the handling of matters for the State.

6.2 LAW FIRM PROFILE

- A. Indicate the date the law firm was established.
- B. Describe the legal services provided by the law firm.
- C. Describe the law firm's specialty and/or area(s) of expertise.
- D. Identify the number of employees in the law firm in the following categories:
licensed attorneys; legal support staff; other support staff.
- E. Indicate whether the law firm is either a small firm or a medium/large firm. For the purposes of this RFQ, a small firm has fewer than twenty (20) full- or part-time attorneys. Any firm with twenty (20) or more full- or part-time attorneys will be deemed a medium/large firm.

- F. Describe the participation of women and minorities in the law firm. Please note the number of women partners and associates and minority partners and associates and indicate the percentage of your firm that is owned by women and by minorities.
- G. Provide a description of the law firm's presence in New Jersey. Note the location of each office, the number of attorneys resident in each office, whether they are partners or associates and whether attorneys not licensed in the State of New Jersey will be assigned to provide any of the requested legal services if the law firm receives a designation pursuant to this RFQ.
- H. Identify any State agencies or departments represented by the law firm during the last five (5) years. For each matter, provide the name of the State agency or department, a description of the matter, the dates of the engagement and the name and contact information of the State employee responsible for overseeing the work of the law firm on that matter.
- I. Identify any State agencies or departments that the law firm has appeared before or has appeared against on behalf of other clients. Please note that the Council, as a public entity, is precluded by the Rules of Professional Conduct from waiving conflicts of interest. See RPC 1.8(1) and RPC 1.9(d).
- J. Identify any State agency or Municipality that the law firm would be unwilling to represent if, as a consequence of that representation, the firm would be precluded from representing other clients in matters adverse to or pending before that agency or Municipality. In evaluating the possibility of conflicts of interest, bidders are directed to review the Guidelines, Section III. If the law

firm is designated as Special Counsel, you have a continuing obligation to disclose to the Council any actual or potential conflicts. Additionally, retained Special Counsel must agree not to disclose any confidential information learned or received in any way as part of any retention.

- K. Identify any governmental entities, agencies, or political subdivisions, other than the State of New Jersey, that the law firm represents or has represented. Include the time period during which the firm represented each such agency and the nature of the work performed.
- L. Describe the law firm's proposed approach to maintaining responsive communication with the Council and keeping the Council informed of problems and progress.
- M. Provide a representative listing of the law firm's major private and public sector clients.

6.3 QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE IN AREA OF LAW

- A. Identify and give the office location of each attorney who practices environmental and land use litigation.
- B. Indicate the percentage of the firm's practice that is in environmental and land use litigation.
- C. List all attorneys in your firm that have at least five years of experience in environmental and land use litigation.
- D. State the qualifications and experience of the attorneys proposed serve as Special Counsel. Demonstrate specifically how these attorneys meet the Minimum Requirements set forth in Section 1.1. For each attorney that would

be involved in handling the work as Special Counsel pursuant to this RFQ, provide detailed information including information as to the areas listed below.

You may also attach a resume for each attorney:

- a. Education, including advanced degrees;
 - b. Years and jurisdictions of admission to practice;
 - c. Number of years engaged in environmental and land use litigation;
 - d. General legal or other relevant work experience including an indication of whether the individual has tried any cases and, if so, approximately how many;
 - e. Any professional distinctions in litigation (e.g., trial certification, teaching experience);
 - f. Area(s) of specialization; and
 - g. Office location of the attorney.
- E. Describe the role each attorney that would be involved in handling the work as Special Counsel pursuant to this RFQ would play and the approximate percentage of the work that each would perform. Percentages for junior lawyers may be listed separately or in the aggregate.
- F. Describe the law firm's approach, manpower, and technical resources to handle document intensive matters, including handling electronically stored information. Indicate whether the law firm uses a vendor for any aspect of these approaches, and if so when and to what extent.

6.4 OTHER QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

- A. Identify all adverse determinations against the law firm or any of its partners, associates or employees or persons acting on its behalf, with respect to actions, proceedings, claims, or complaints of any kind under any local, State or Federal laws, regulations, court rules, or Rules of Professional Conduct.
- B. Identify and describe in detail any indictments, convictions, or civil offenses arising directly or indirectly from the conduct of business by the law firm or any of its partners, associates, employees, or agents.
- C. Identify any material arrangements, relationships, associations, employment, or other contacts that may cause a conflict of interest or the appearance of a conflict of interest if the law firm is retained as Special Counsel.
- D. Identify the law firm's malpractice insurer and describe the insurance limits.
- E. Confirm that the law firm covers litigation costs, any bonds required by a court, and any potential liability under Fed.R.Civ.P. 11.
- F. Confirm that the law firm agrees to abide by the Outside Counsel Guidelines billing procedures as amended by this RFQ.
- G. Confirm that upon retention, the law firm will provide updated Ownership Disclosure, Affirmative Action Supplement with Affirmative Action Employee Information Report, and the certification required by N.J.S.A. 9:44A-20.13, et seq., and N.J.S.A. 9:44A-20.26 et seq., Executive Order 117 (2008), and Executive Order 117 (2005) as further explained in Exhibit A. These forms are initially required by this RFQ and then required by law again at the time of any retention. The additional terms contained in Exhibit A shall be incorporated

into any retention agreement executed by the Highlands Council and Special Counsel.

6.5 ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL RETENTION AGREEMENTS – EXHIBIT A

The Additional Requirements set forth in Exhibit A are material terms of any Retention Agreement resulting from this RFQ. Your Proposal must include all of the forms and/or certifications required by Exhibit A. Note, moreover, that a firm selected as Special Counsel shall have to submit updated certifications or forms if it also is retained for a specific matter(s), when required by law.

6.6 ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL PROPOSALS – EXHIBIT C

Your Proposal must include a completed Diversity Questionnaire, provided in Exhibit C. Note, moreover, that a firm selected as Special Counsel shall submit updated certifications and forms if it is also retained for a specific matter, when required by law.

7.0 FEES

Special Counsel is expected to adhere to the staffing protocols set forth in Section IV.C. of the Guidelines. No charges will be accepted for tasks that could otherwise be performed by clerical staff. The Council will only accept charges for services rendered by legal staff, which includes partners, associates, clerks and law assistants (summer associates or law school graduates awaiting bar results).

8.0 ADDITIONAL TERMS

8.1 NO ENDORSEMENT

Designation as Special Counsel does not constitute an endorsement by the Council. A law firm designated as Special Counsel may not promote or advertise its designation without permission of the Council.

8.2 EFFECT OF SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Submission of a Proposal in response to this RFQ will not bind or otherwise obligate the Council to include the responding firm on the list of Special Counsel.

8.3 EFFECT OF INCLUSION ON LIST

Inclusion of a firm on the list of designated Special Counsel will not bind or otherwise obligate the Council to retain the listed firm for legal services. Inclusion on the list of designated Special Counsel will not guarantee any other form of employment or engagement.

8.4 AUTHORITY NOT CONSTRAINED

Nothing in this RFQ is intended to limit or constrain the discretion of the Council in exercising any authority, duty, prerogative or power established or recognized by the Constitution, statutes, executive orders, regulations, or case law.

9.0 SELECTION PROCESS

9.1 PROPOSAL RESPONSIVENESS

All Proposals will be reviewed to determine responsiveness. The Council may reject non-responsive Proposals without evaluation but may waive minor non-compliance.

9.2. PROPOSAL MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS

Proposals that fail to meet the Minimum Qualifications set forth in Section 1.1 will be immediately rejected and will not be evaluated or ranked.

9.3 EVALUATION OF PROPOSALS

An evaluation committee, with a minimum of three members all of whom will be Council staff, will evaluate responsive Proposals using the following evaluation criteria categories, separate or combined in some manner, and not necessarily listed in order of significance:

1. Knowledge and experience of attorneys in the area of land use law and related environmental litigation;
2. Experience of the law firm;
3. Resources of the law firm;
4. Past experience of the State with the law firm and/or attorneys; and
5. Reasonableness of proposed fees

9.4 RANKING AND RECOMMENDATION OF PROPOSALS

The evaluation committee will rank Proposals based on the criteria in Section 9.3 and will recommend to the Council for designation as Special Counsel the law firms whose Proposals the committee finds to be most advantageous to the State, price and other factors considered. The recommended law firms may be divided into two lists, large firms (firms with more than 20 attorneys) and small firms (firms with 20 or fewer attorneys) in order to further the Council's interests in promoting small businesses and in facilitating the handling of matters for the Council.

9.5 OPTIONAL INTERVIEWS OR ORAL PRESENTATIONS

The Council reserves the right to require interviews or oral presentations from the most qualified firms that submitted Proposals prior to making a final determination.

9.6 DESIGNATION AND APPROVAL

The recommendation(s) are submitted to the Council staff for their determination, in their discretion, as to which firm(s), if any, shall be designated as Special Counsel and these designations must be approved by the Governor, in his discretion.

9.7 NOTIFICATION

The Council shall notify in writing any law firm that is selected of its selection as Special Counsel and the firms designated as Special Counsel shall be posted on the Council's website at: <https://www.state.nj.us/njhighlands>.

9.8 RESERVED RIGHTS

The Council reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals received in response to this RFQ when determined to be in the Council's best interest, and to waive minor noncompliance in a Proposal. The Council further reserves the right to make any such investigation as it deems necessary as to the qualifications of any and all firms submitting Proposals in response to this RFQ. In the event that all Proposals are rejected or if the Council, at any time, deems the number of qualified firms receiving designations as the result of this RFQ to be insufficient to meet the potential needs of the Council, the Council reserves the right to re-solicit Proposals.

10.0 SPECIAL COUNSEL DESIGNATIONS AND RETAINER AGREEMENTS

10.1 SPECIAL COUNSEL DESIGNATION

A law firm selected pursuant to this RFQ for designation as Special Counsel, with the approval of the Governor, will be the subject of a Special Counsel Designation, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:17A-13. A law firm may not represent a local government unit unless it is given a Special Counsel Designation. A Special Counsel

Designation, however, is not a retention for a specific matter and does not entitle a firm to be retained for a specific matter. The terms and conditions set forth in this RFQ shall be the terms and conditions of the Special Counsel Designation.

10.2 RETENTION LETTER

A firm may not provide representation as Special Counsel to a Highlands municipality unless it also executes a retention letter issued by the Council for a specific matter or class of matters. A law firm selected as Special Counsel and placed on a list may, from time to time, be contacted by the Council for retention on a specific matter. At that time, if the firm agrees to the retention, the firm may be required to submit updated certifications, as required by Exhibit A and will receive a retention letter to countersign. The terms and conditions set forth in this RFQ shall be included in the additional terms and conditions in the Retainer Letter.

11.0 ADDITIONAL AMENDMENTS TO GUIDELINES

In addition to the billing amendments noted above, the Guidelines are further amended to note that the parties agree that the main contact on the retention will be the Highlands Council Special Counsel Liaison. Any recitations in the Contract that state otherwise are hereby amended.

12.0 ATTACHMENTS

Attachments to this RFQ are:

Exhibit A – Additional Terms

Exhibit B – Cover Sheet

Exhibit C – Diversity Questionnaire

Exhibit A to Special Counsel Retention Agreements

These additional terms and conditions are required by law, as indicated herein (Additional Terms) and shall be executed by the Special Counsel prior to the Division of Law executing any Special Counsel Retention Agreement with the Division of Law on behalf of any of its clients. These Additional Terms shall be incorporated into any Special Counsel Retention Agreement (Retention Agreement) executed by the Division of Law and Special Counsel.

I. Special Counsel shall complete the following forms or otherwise satisfy the following requirements prior to the State executing a Retention Agreement with Special Counsel:

A. Ownership Disclosure

The Ownership Disclosure addresses the requirements of N.J.S.A. 52:25-24.2, for any contract or retention agreement and must be completed and submitted either with the proposal or with the signed Retention Agreement. The Retention Agreement cannot be finalized by the Division of Law unless and until the Ownership Disclosure is properly completed and accepted. The form can be downloaded from the Department of Treasury website under the heading Vendor Forms. It is located at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms/OwnershipDisclosure.pdf>

B. Affirmative Action Supplement with Affirmative Action Employee Information Report

The Affirmative Action Supplement with Affirmative Action Employee Information Report addresses the requirements of N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 to -34 and N.J.A.C. 17:27.3.1 et seq., for any contract or retention agreement. The Special Counsel agrees that and the Special Counsel must either:

1. complete and submit the Employee Information Report either with the proposal or with the signed Retention Agreement. The Retention Agreement is not completed unless and until the form is properly completed and submitted to the Division of Law, as well as to the Contract Compliance and Audit Unit within the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property and long with a \$150.00 check. The form can be downloaded from the Department of Treasury website under the heading Vendor Forms:

http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms/AA_%20Supplement.pdf

The instructions for the form are available at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms/EmployeeInformationReportInstructions-aa302ins.pdf>;

or

2. present a currently Certificate of Employee Information Report issued by the Contract Compliance and Audit Unit within the New Jersey Department of Treasury, Division of Purchase and Property; or
3. present a copy of its existing federally approved or sanctioned affirmative action report.

C. New Jersey Business Registration

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-44 (b), Special Counsel must either

1. submit with the signed Retention Agreement a copy of a valid New Jersey Business Registration. If the business is not already registered with the New Jersey Division of Revenue, registration can be completed on line at the Division of Revenue website:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/revenue/busregcert.shtml>;

or

2. advise that a copy of the valid New Jersey Business Registration is on file with the Division of Law.

D. Certification of Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Iran

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-58, Special Counsel must certify that neither Special Counsel, nor one of its parents, subsidiaries, and/or affiliates (as explained in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(e)(3)), is listed on the Department of the Treasury's List of Persons or Entities Engaging in Prohibited Investment Activities in Iran and that neither is involved in any of the investment activities set forth in N.J.S.A. 52:32-56(f). If Special Counsel is unable to so certify, Special Counsel shall provide a detailed and precise description of such activities. The form is available at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms/DisclosureofInvestmentActivitiesinIran.pdf>

E. New Jersey State W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire – NJStart Vendor Registration

No Special Counsel shall be paid unless Special Counsel has properly completed New Jersey State W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire on file with the State.

If Special Counsel has previously submitted a State of New Jersey W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire, it need not be submitted again. If at any time Special Counsel will need to revise its W-9 for any reason, including firm name, address, TIN, Special Counsel shall be required to register to use NJStart and make the revisions to the W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire in the NJSmart system.

If Special Counsel does not have a New Jersey State W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire on file with the State, the Special Counsel shall be required to register to use NJStart and make the revisions to the W-9 and Vendor Questionnaire in the NJSmart system.

General Information, including an explanatory video about NJSmart is available at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/vendor.shtml>

Use this link to register for or access the NJSmart system:

<https://www.njstart.gov/bsa/>

F. Two-Year Chapter 51/Executive Order 117 Certification and Disclosure of Political Contributions

Prior to entering any Retention Agreement retention agreement under which the State will pay more than \$17,500 to the Business Entity proposed as the Special Counsel, the Business Entity shall submit the Certification and Disclosure form, certifying that no contributions prohibited by Chapter 51 have been solicited or made by the Business Entity and reporting all contributions the Business Entity made during the preceding four years to any political organization organized under 26 U.S.C. ' 527 of the Internal Revenue Code that also meets the definition of a continuing political committee@ within the mean of N.J.S.A. 19:44A-3(n) and N.J.A.C. 19:25-1.7. Additional information about Chapter 51 and Executive Order 117, including a Summary and a Q&A, is available at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml>

The required form and instructions for completion and submission to the Deputy Attorney General prior to the finalization of the Retention Agreement are available for on the New Jersey Division of Purchase and Property's website, under the heading "Vendor Forms Required for Contract Award" at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms.shtml>

If the Special Counsel has a currently valid Two-Year Chapter 51/Executive Order 117 Vendor Certification it may be submitted instead of a new form.

Special Counsel is required, on a continuing basis, to report any contributions and solicitations Special Counsel makes during the term of the Retention Agreement, and any extension(s) thereof, at the time any such contribution or solicitation is made. Failure to do so is a breach of the Retention Agreement.

Special Counsel=s failure to submit the form will preclude the Division of Law=s countersignature of the Retention Agreement. The State Treasurer or his designee shall review the Disclosures submitted by the Special Counsel pursuant to this section, as well as any other pertinent information concerning the contributions or reports thereof by the intended Special Counsel, prior to award, or during the term of the retention agreement. If the State Treasurer determines that any contribution or action by the Special Counsel violated Chapter 51 and EO 117 the State Treasurer shall disqualify the Special Counsel from award of such contract. If the State Treasurer or his designees determines that any contribution or action constitutes a breach of contract that poses a conflict of interest, pursuant to Chapter 51 or EO 117, the State Treasurer shall disqualify the Special Counsel from award of such contract.

G. Disclosure Requirement of P.L. 2005, c. 271

Pursuant to P.L. 2005, c.271 (Chapter 271) every Business Entity contracting with the State is required to disclose its (and its principals) political contributions within the immediately preceding twelve (12) month period. No prospective Special Counsel will be precluded from being retained by virtue of the information provided in the Chapter 271 disclosure, provided the form is fully and accurately completed. Prior to being retained, the Special Counsel anticipated to be selected will be required to submit Chapter 271 disclosures if the cost of Retention Agreement is anticipated to be in excess of \$17,500. This requirement is in addition to the requirements of Chapter 51 and EO 117. The form is available for your review at:

<http://www.state.nj.us/treasury/purchase/forms/CertandDisc2706.pdf>

II. Special Counsel Certification

A. Source Disclosure Certification

Special Counsel's execution of these Additional Terms to the Retention Agreement will confirm that Special Counsel agrees, in accordance with Executive Order 129 (2004) and N.J.S.A. 52:34-13.2 (P.L.2005, c. 92), that all services performed for the Retention Agreement shall be performed within the United States. In the event that all services performed for the Retention Agreement shall NOT be performed within the United States, Special Counsel shall send the Deputy Attorney General who executes the Retention Agreement a letter that states with specificity the reasons why the services cannot be so performed. Any such letter shall require review and approval pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:34-14.2 prior to execution of this Retention Agreement or the delivery of the services which will not be performed within the US.

III. The Special Counsel acknowledges that the Retention Agreement is subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. Breach of Requirements of Chapter 51 and Executive Order 117 (2008) (Also referred to as "Pay to Play Restrictions," N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to -20.25, or Executive Order 134(2004))

In order to safeguard the integrity of State government procurement by imposing restrictions to insulate the negotiation and award of State contracts, including retention agreements, from political contributions that pose the risk of improper influence, purchase of access, or the appearance thereof, the Legislature enacted P.L. 2005, c.51 (codified at N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 to -20.25) (Chapter 51), on March 22, 2005, effective retroactive to October 15, 2004, superseding the terms of Executive Order 134(2004). In addition, on September 24, 2008, Executive Order 117 was issued and made effective on November 15, 2008 (EO 117) which set forth additional limitations on the ability of executive branch agencies to contract with business entities that have made or solicited certain contributions.

Thus, pursuant to the requirements of Chapter 51 and EO 117, it shall be a material breach of the terms of the Retention Agreement for Special Counsel to do any of the following during the term of the Retention Agreement:

1. make or solicit a contribution in violation of the Chapter 51 or EO 117;
2. knowingly conceal or misrepresent a contribution given or received;
3. make or solicit contributions through intermediaries for the purpose of concealing or misrepresenting the source of the contribution;
4. make or solicit any contribution on the condition or with the agreement that it will be contributed to a campaign committee or any candidate of holder of the public office of Governor, or of Lieutenant Governor, or to any State, county or municipal party committee, or any legislative leadership committee;
5. engage or employ a lobbyist or Special Counsel with the intent or understanding that such lobbyist or Special Counsel would make or solicit any contribution, which if made or solicited by the business entity itself, would subject that entity to the restrictions of Chapter 51 or EO117;
6. fund contributions made by third parties, including Special Counsels, attorneys, family members, and employees;

7. engage in any exchange of contributions to circumvent the intent of the Chapter 51 or EO 117;or
8. directly or indirectly through or by any other person or means, do any act which would subject that entity to the restrictions of the Chapter 51 or EO 117.

B. New Jersey Conflict of Interest Law

The New Jersey Conflict of Interest Law, N.J.S.A. 52:13D-12 et seq. and Executive Order 189 (1988), prohibit certain actions by persons or entities which provide goods or services to any State Agency. Specifically:

1. No Special Counsel shall pay, offer to pay, or agree to pay, either directly or indirectly, any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity, or other thing of value of any kind to any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13b. and e., in the Department of the Treasury or any other agency with which such Special Counsel transacts or offers or proposes to transact business, or to any member of the immediate family, as defined by N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13i., of any such officer or employee, or any partnership, firm, or corporation with which they are employed or associated, or in which such officer or employee has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g.
2. The solicitation of any fee, commission, compensation, gift, gratuity or other thing of value by any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from any Special Counsel shall be reported in writing forthwith by Special Counsel to the Attorney General and the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards.
3. No Special Counsel may, directly or indirectly, undertake any private business, commercial or entrepreneurial relationship with, whether or not pursuant to employment, contract or other agreement, express or implied, or sell any interest in such Special Counsel to, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee having any duties or responsibilities in connection with the purchase, acquisition or sale of any property or services by or to any State agency or any instrumentality thereof, or with any person, firm or entity with which he is employed or associated or in which he has an interest within the meaning of N.J.S.A. 52:13D-13g. Any relationships subject to this provision shall be reported in writing forthwith to the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards, which may grant a waiver of this restriction upon application of the State officer or employee or special State officer or employee upon a finding that the present or proposed relationship does not present the potential, actuality or appearance of a conflict of interest.
4. No Special Counsel shall influence, or attempt to influence or cause to be influenced, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee in his official capacity in any manner which might tend to impair the objectivity or independence of judgment of said officer or employee.
5. No Special Counsel shall cause or influence, or attempt to cause or influence, any State officer or employee or special State officer or employee to use, or attempt to use, his official position to secure unwarranted privileges or advantages for the Special Counsel or any other person.
6. The provisions cited above in paragraph H(I). through H(V) shall not be construed to prohibit a State officer or employee or special State officer or employee from receiving gifts from or contracting with Special Counsel under the same terms and conditions as are offered or made available to members of the general public subject to any guidelines the Executive Commission on Ethical Standards may promulgate.

C. Obligation to Maintain Records

Special Counsel shall maintain all records for products and/or services delivered against the contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final payment under the Retention Agreement unless otherwise specified in the Retention Agreement. Such records shall be made available to the State, including the Comptroller, for audit and review upon request.

D. Affirmative Action and Equal Employment Requirements:

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.5 Special Counsel agrees that:

1. Special Council or its or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Except with respect to affectional or sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, Special Counsel will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that all employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex. Such equal employment opportunity shall include, but not be limited to, the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Special Counsel agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the public agency compliance officer setting forth provisions of this nondiscrimination clause;
2. Special Counsel or subcontractor, where applicable, will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of Special Counsel, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex;
3. Special Counsel or subcontractor will send to each labor union, with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, if any, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union of the Special Counsel's commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; and
4. Special Counsel or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A.10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time, and codified at N.J.A.C. 17:27-1.1 et seq.

Further, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-3.7, Special Counsel agrees that:

1. Special Counsel and its subcontractor, if any, agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.
2. Special Counsel and its subcontractor, if any, agrees to inform in writing its appropriate recruitment agencies including, but not limited to, employment agencies, placement bureaus, colleges, universities, and labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.
3. Special Counsel and its subcontractor, if any, agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.
4. In conforming with the targeted employment goals, Special Counsel and its subcontractor, if any, agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality or sex, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey, and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

IV. Special Counsel is hereby notified of the following:

A. Chapter 271 Annual Disclosure Statement Filing Requirement

If Special Counsel receives contracts in excess of \$50,000 from a public entity during a calendar year, Special Counsel is responsible to file an annual disclosure statement on political contributions with the New Jersey Election Law Enforcement Commission (ELEC), pursuant to N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.13 (P.L. 2005, c. 271, section 3) It is Special Counsel's responsibility to determine if filing is necessary. Failure to so file can result in the imposition of financing penalties by ELEC. Additional information about this requirement, and the form to be filed is available from ELEC at (888)313-3532 or <https://www.elec.nj.gov/pay2play/form.html>.

B. Set-off for State Taxes

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 54:49-19 et seq. (P.L. 1995, c159), and notwithstanding the provision of any other law to the contrary, whenever any taxpayer, partnership or S corporation under contract to provide goods or services or construction projects to the State of New Jersey or its agencies or instrumentalities, including the legislative and judicial branches of State government, is entitled to payment for those goods or services at the same time a taxpayer, partner or shareholder of that entity is indebted for any State tax, the Director of the Division of Taxation shall seek to set off so much of that payment as shall be necessary to satisfy the indebtedness. The amount set-off shall not allow for the deduction of any expense or other deduction which might be attributable to the taxpayer, partner, or shareholder subject to set-off under this Act.

The Director of the Division of Taxation shall give notice of the set-off to the taxpayer, partner or shareholder and provide an opportunity for a hearing within thirty (30) days of such notice under the procedures for protests established under N.J.S.A. 54:49-19. No request for conference, protest, or subsequent appeal to the Tax Court from any protest shall stay the collection of the indebtedness.

C. Diane B. Allen Equal Pay Act

The Diane B. Allen Equal Pay Act, L. 2018, c. 9, requires State contractors providing professional services to the State or a State entity to file information about its employee pay practices with the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development. Information about the Act and the reporting requirement is available at: <https://nj.gov/labor/equalpay/equalpay.html>

Special Counsel hereby agrees to these Additional Term and Conditions:

Special Counsel Signature: _____

Special Counsel Name: _____

Special Counsel Firm: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT B – COVER SHEET



COVERSHEET, AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION FOR
NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL
PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL DESIGNATION

Name and Issue Date of Special Counsel RFQ to which you are responding:

Firm Name: _____

Firm Address: _____

Number of Attorneys in the Firm: _____

Attorney to Contact for this Proposal: _____

Telephone Number of Contact for this Proposal: _____

Email Address of Contact for this Proposal: _____

AGREEMENT AND CERTIFICATION

By submitting this proposal, I agree, on behalf of my firm, that my firm will abide by the Outside Counsel Guidelines available at: <http://www.nj.gov/oag/law/rfqs.htm> and with any updates thereto during the term of a Special Counsel Designation and in the event that my firm is retained by the Division of Law.

By submitting this proposal, I understand that in the event that my firm is selected and receives a Special Counsel Designation, the Special Counsel Designation is not a guarantee that my firm will be retained for any matter.

By submitting this proposal, I agree that in the event that my firm receives a Special Counsel Designation and is retained, my firm shall bill at the rates [set forth in the RFQ/set forth in the Special Counsel Designation], and that the rates shall not increase during the term of the Special Counsel Designation.

The information in this proposal is true and accurate has been reviewed by me and is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

By submitting this proposal, I warrant that I have the authority to bind my firm to the Proposal submitted and to any retention my firm may receive as a result.

Signature of Contact Attorney

Date

EXHIBIT C – DIVERSITY QUESTIONNAIRE



NEW JERSEY HIGHLANDS COUNCIL 2021 OUTSIDE COUNSEL DIVERSITY QUESTIONNAIRE

The Office of the Attorney General/Department of Law and Public Safety recognizes diversity and inclusion as a core value that strengthens our ability to serve the people of New Jersey. We believe that an analysis of the participation and roles of certain groups that have historically been underrepresented in the legal profession is of particular importance to the Department. To that end we are asking the private practice law firms that we engage to complete this survey, so that we may benchmark and track information about diversity and inclusion among our outside counsel.

INSTRUCTIONS:

- 1. Applicable Period.** Except as otherwise noted, please provide information limited to your law firm's New Jersey Based Attorneys, current as of **January 01, 2021**
- 2. Voluntarily Self-Reported Data Only.** All categories of reporting in this survey are limited to information that has been voluntarily self-reported to your firm by your firm's attorneys whereby they identify themselves as being within a particular demographic group ("**Identify**"), i.e. Gender, Race or Ethnicity categories, LGBTQIA, or having a Disability.
- 3. Race/Ethnicity.** For ease of reporting, the race and ethnicity categories requested in the chart below are consistent with the categories established by the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for mandatory reporting by certain employers. Detailed descriptions of the relevant Race/Ethnicity categories are available via <https://www.eeoc.gov/employers/eeo1survey/2007instructions.cfm>
- 4. LGBTQIA.** The category "**LGBTQIA**" in the chart below refers to individuals who Identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer/questioning, intersex or asexual.
- 5. Disability.** The category "**Disability**" in the chart below refers to individuals who Identify as having a Disability. As used herein, "**Disability**" with respect to an individual is defined consistently with 28 CFR 35.108(a)(1)(i): "a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more of the major life activities of such individual."
- 6. "New Jersey Based Attorneys"** means attorneys who are based in New Jersey who have an ownership interest in and/or who are employed by your law firm. Do not include temporary, *per diem* or contract attorneys in your responses. For the purposes of this definition, "**based in New Jersey**" means that the primary workplace location for the attorney is New Jersey, *i.e.* the law firm office where the attorney performs the greatest amount of work time, as compared with any other of your law firm's offices, is located in New Jersey.
- 7. Multiple Categories.** If an attorney fits more than one of the requested categories, please count such individual in all of the applicable categories.

8. **Numerical Data Responses.** Please provide numerical data in response to the charts, entering “0” where the number is zero. If the requested information is not applicable to your firm, please enter “N/A” as your response.
9. **Definitions.** As used herein:
- a. **“Equity Partner”** means an attorney who has the title Partner, Shareholder, Member, Principal or another similar title, who has an ownership interest in the law firm.
 - b. **“Non-Equity Partner”** means an attorney who has the title Partner, Shareholder, Member, Principal or another similar title, who is employed by the firm but has no ownership interest in the law firm.
 - c. **“Counsel”** means an attorney who has the title of Counsel, Senior Counsel, Of Counsel, Special Counsel, Senior Attorney, or another similar title and is not an associate, Equity Partner or Non-Equity Partner, and who is a permanent, salaried employee of the firm and not a temporary or contract attorney.
 - d. **“Associate”** means an attorney who has the title of Associate, Attorney, or other similar title, and is not an Equity Partner, Non-Equity Partner or Counsel.
 - e. **“Minority-Owned Firm”** means your law firm is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, operated, and managed by an individual or individuals who are **“minority group members,”** as such term is defined by the National Minority Supplier Development Council (see, <http://www.nmsdc.org/mbes/what-is-an-mbe/>)
 - f. **“Women-Owned Firm”** means your law firm is at least 51 percent owned, controlled, operated, and managed by a woman or women.

GENERAL FIRM INFORMATION

1. Firm Name: _____
2. Name of Head of Firm (e.g. Managing Partner, Chairperson) _____
3. Person Responsible for Completion of Survey
Name: _____
Title: _____
Email Address: _____
Telephone Number: _____
4. Please indicate the number of attorneys employed by your law firm on a full-time basis
 - a. Firm-wide: _____
 - b. In the US: _____
 - c. In New Jersey: _____
5. Is your law firm Minority-Owned? YES NO
 - a. If yes, please indicate if it is certified as such? YES NO
 - b. If yes, please list the name of the certifying entity: _____
6. Is your law firm Women-Owned? YES NO
 - a. If yes, please indicate if it is certified as such? YES NO
 - b. If yes, please list the name of the certifying entity: _____

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Please provide the information sought in the chart below.

JOB TITLE	RACE or ETHNICITY							GENDER		LGBTQIA	DISABILITY	TOTAL
	Hispanic or Latino	White	Black or African American	Asian	Native American or Alaskan Native	Two or More Races	Unknown	Women	Men			
ALL ATTORNEYS FIRM-WIDE – # of NJ Based Attorneys who held the following positions as of January 1, 2018												
EQUITY PARTNERS												
NON-EQUITY PARTNERS												
COUNSEL												
ASSOCIATES												
FIRM LEADERSHIP – # NJ Based Attorneys who served in leadership positions as of January 1, 2018												
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (or top firm governing committee)												
ATTORNEYS IN-CHARGE OF FIRM OFFICES (for firms having multiple offices)												
DEPARTMENT HEADS (for firm-wide departments that include multiple practice groups and/or offices)												
PRACTICE GROUP LEADERS (for specialized areas of practice within larger departments)												
FIRM OFFICE LEADERS (local departmental or practice group)												
FIRM-WIDE COMMITTEE HEAD (top-most committee leadership role)												
PARTNER COMMITTEE (decides entry to partnership)												
COMPENSATION COMMITTEE (decides attorney compensation)												
HIRINGPARTNER(S) (final decision-making authority for new attorney hiring)												

JOB TITLE	RACE or ETHNICITY							GENDER		LGBTQIA	DISABILITY	TOTAL
	Hispanic or Latino	White	Black or African American	Asian	Native American or Alaskan Native	Two or More Races	Unknown	Women	Men			
PROMOTIONS – # of NJ Based Attorneys who were promoted during the 1-year period ending January 1, 2018												
ASSOCIATE TO EQUITY PARTNER												
ASSOCIATE TO NON-EQUITY PARTNER												
ASSOCIATE TO COUNSEL												
COUNSEL TO EQUITY PARTNER												
COUNSEL TO NON-EQUITY PARTNER												
ATTRITION – # of NJ Based Attorneys who left the firm (whether voluntarily or otherwise) during the 1-year period ending January 1, 2018												
EQUITY PARTNERS												
NON-EQUITY PARTNERS												
COUNSEL												
ASSOCIATES												
NEW HIRES – # of NJ Based Attorneys who were hired by the firm during the 1-year period ending January 1, 2018												
EQUITY PARTNERS												
NON-EQUITY PARTNERS												
COUNSEL												
ASSOCIATES												
PART TIME ATTORNEYS – # of NJ Based Attorneys who regularly worked on a part-time schedule during the 1-year period ending January 1, 2018												
EQUITY PARTNERS												
NON-EQUITY PARTNERS												
COUNSEL												
ASSOCIATES												

