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Contract Number

24-1086

SAP Number

Public Defender

Department Contract Representative Telephone Number Diana Lovelace (909) 382-3950

Contractor Contractor Representative Telephone Number Contract Term Original Contract Amount Amendment Amount Total Contract Amount Cost Center Loretta Ramirez On File Nov. 30, 2024 to Dec. 31, 2026 4910002753

IT IS HEREBY AGREED AS FOLLOWS:

WHEREAS, San Bernardino County Public Defender, hereinafter called the County, desires to obtain the services of Contractor under the terms and conditions set forth in this Contract, and

WHEREAS, County finds Loretta Ramirez, hereinafter referred to as Contractor, has the skills and knowledge necessary to provide services for the County; and

WHEREAS, County desires that such services be provided by Contractor and Contractor agrees to perform these services as set forth below;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of mutual covenants and conditions, the parties agree as follows:

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I. DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF CONTRACTOR

Contractor shall be employed as a Deputy Public Defender IV, under the working title of "Public Defense Program Deputy Public Defender IV." Contractor shall work cooperatively with the staff of the County under the direction of a Chief Deputy Public Defender, performing a broad range of duties, including, but not limited to, the following:

- A. Support and participate in department efforts to effectuate reforms in criminal sentencing and parole through the department's Second Chance Program.
- B. Perform a variety of criminal defense litigation, including jury trials.
- C. Prepare and defend cases before any court within the state.
- D. Conduct legal research and prepare legal briefs, petitions, motions, and other legal pleadings.
- E. Order investigations and subpoenas; interview clients and witnesses; and prepare reports.
- F. Zealously and competently represent each client within the bounds of the law and consistent with the Public Defender's mission and the Rules of Professional Conduct.
- G. Establish and maintain effective working relationships with prosecutors, judicial officers, court staff and other members of the criminal justice system, and department support staff and supervisors.
- H. Annotate files completely, accurately and legibly, detailing all court appearances, client discussions, and any other action taken on the client's behalf.
- I. Recognize all relevant issues, including proof problems, potential defenses, possible motions, necessary investigation, additional charges that could be filed, immigration consequences, specialty court amenability, and mitigation.
- J. Uphold and adhere to the rules, regulations and policies of the County and the Office of the Public Defender.

II. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

As a condition of employment, Contractor does hereby agree to follow and uphold the Conflict of Interest policy of the County's Personnel Rules as follows:

No official or employee shall engage in any business or transaction or shall have a financial or other personal interest or association, direct or indirect, which is in conflict with the proper discharge of official duties or would tend to impair independence of judgment or action in the performance of official duties. Personal, as distinguished from financial interest, includes an interest arising from blood or marriage relationships, or close business, personal or political associations. This section shall not serve to prohibit independent acts or other forms of enterprise during those hours not covered by active County employment, providing such acts do not constitute a conflict of interest as defined herein. Contractor is also subject to the provision of California Government Code Sections 1090, 1126, 87100, and any other conflict of interest code applicable to County employment.

III. TERM

This Contract shall be effective November 30, 2024 and shall remain in effect through December 31, 2026, subject to the termination provisions below. Notwithstanding the foregoing, either party may terminate this Contract at any time, without cause, with a fourteen (14) day prior written notice to the other party. This Contract may be terminated for just cause immediately by the County. Contractor shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority, who shall have the full authority and discretion to exercise County rights under this paragraph.

IV. COMPENSATION OF CONTRACTOR

Upon the effective date of this Contract, Contractor shall be considered a Contract employee in the County's Unclassified Service. Contractor shall receive only the benefits and compensation specifically set forth in this Contract. This Contract provides for the full compensation to Contractor for the services required hereunder. This Contract supersedes any prior employment Contract of Contractor.

A. SALARY RATE

Contractor shall be compensated for services at a rate of \$77.24 per hour, which is equivalent to Step 8 of Range 82 of the salary schedule for employees in the Attorney Unit. Contractor shall not to exceed forty (40) hours per workweek without prior approval from the Public Defender, or his/her designee. Contractor shall be evaluated and will be eligible to receive step increases of approximately 2.5 percent at the beginning of the pay period following each completion of 1,040 service hours and upon approval of the appointing authority, up to the top step of the range, based on a meets standards work performance evaluation.

Contractor shall receive salary adjustments, including across-the-board adjustments, in the same amount and at the same time as employees in the Attorney Unit.

Contractor does not gain probationary or regular status during the term of this Contract. Payment for services shall be made bi-weekly during the term specified in Section III of this Contract.

B. BILINGUAL COMPENSATION

If Contractor is in a position designated by the appointing authority which requires bilingual translation involving the use of English and a second language as part of their regular duties, Contractor shall be entitled to bilingual compensation. Such compensation shall apply regardless of the total time required per day for such translation. Contractors in such positions must be certified as competent in translation skills by Human Resources to be eligible for compensation. Competency Certification is solely determined and administered by Human Resources. Level 1 - verbal skill level is compensable at fifty dollars (\$50.00) per pay period. Level 2 - written skill level is compensable at fifty-five dollars (\$55.00) per pay period.

C. HOURS OF WORK

The standard tour of duty represents the time that Contractor is regularly scheduled to work. The official work period shall start at 12:01 a.m. Saturday and end at 12:00 p.m. on the second Friday thereafter. Contractor is exempt from the Fair Labor Standards Act and accordingly is not governed by the customary eighty (80) hour work period.

Contractor is required to work during such hours as necessary to carry out the duties of the position as designated above, and such hours may be varied so long as the work requirements and the efficient operations of the County are assured. The attorney contract position is a nontraditional office/field work position. Flexibility of schedule is anticipated at times.

D. LEAVE PROVISIONS

Contractor shall receive, or be subject to, the following Leave Provisions in the same manner and amount as employees in the Attorney Unit: Bereavement, Blood Donation, Holiday, Jury Duty, Sick, and Vacation.

Refer to Item Q in this Section for processing of leave balances upon termination of this Contract.

E. MEDICAL AND DENTAL COVERAGE

Contractor must enroll in a medical and dental plan offered by the County, unless enrolled in other comparable employer sponsored coverage. If eligible, Contractor shall receive the Medical Premium Subsidy (MPS) and Dental Premium Subsidy (DPS) to offset the cost of medical plan premiums charged to Contractor pursuant to the terms and conditions for employees in the Attorney Unit. The applicable MPS shall be paid directly to the provider of the County-sponsored medical plan in which the Contractor has enrolled. In no case shall the MPS exceed the total cost of the medical insurance premium for the coverage selected (e.g., when the MPS amounts exceed the lowest HMO cost).

F. VISION CARE INSURANCE

Subject to carrier requirements, the County shall pay the premiums for vision care insurance for Contractor (employee-only coverage) if Contractor is in a paid status and is scheduled for at least forty-one (41) hours per pay period.

G. LIFE INSURANCE

The County shall pay premiums for a term life insurance policy for Contractor in the same manner and amount as employees in the Attorney Unit. County-paid life insurance will become effective the first pay period in which contractor is in a paid status and shall continue for each pay period Contractor is in a paid status. For pay periods in which Contractor does not meet the paid hours' requirement, Contractor shall have the option of continuing life insurance coverage at Contractor's expense.

H. ACCIDENTAL DEATH AND DISMEMBERMENT

Contractor shall be eligible to purchase Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance coverage and additional supplemental term life insurance in the same manner and amount as offered by the County to employees in the Attorney Unit.

I. EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Contractor shall be eligible for expense reimbursement in the same manner and amount as employees in the Attorney Unit.

J. RETIREMENT PLAN

Contractor shall participate in the County's PST Deferred Compensation Retirement Plan.

K. RETIREMENT MEDICAL TRUST ("Trust")

Upon termination of this Contract, Contractor shall be eligible to convert the cash value of unused Sick Leave to the Trust in the same manner and amount as employees

in the Attorney Unit, provided the Contractor meets the eligibility requirements (e.g., years of service, etc.) for participation. Contractor shall not receive County contributions to the Trust.

Refer to Item Q in this section for processing of unused Sick Leave balances upon termination of this Contract.

L. SALARY SAVINGS PLAN

Contractor shall be eligible to participate in the County's 457(b) Salary Savings Plan, per the Plan Document. Contractor shall not receive County match contributions with respect to participation in such plan.

M. DEPENDENT CARE ASSISTANCE PLAN (DCAP) AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ACCOUNT (FSA) PLAN FOR MEDICAL EXPENSE REIMBURSEMENT

Contractor shall be eligible to participate in the County's DCAP and FSA Plans in the same manner as employees in the Attorney Unit and per the plan documents. Contractor shall not receive any County match contributions with respect to participation in either plan.

N. LEGALLY REQUIRED BENEFITS

Contractor shall receive all benefits as required by law when eligible (e.g., FMLA, ACA, Military Leave, Time Off for Voting, and Medicare). Where the County provides a greater benefit than is required by law, Contractor shall only receive the minimum benefit in accordance with the law, unless the greater benefit is specifically provided for in another provision of this Contract.

O. SHORT TERM DISABILITY

Contractor shall be eligible to receive the same Short-Term Disability insurance benefits as offered to employees in the Attorney Unit.

P. SERVICE AND EFFECT ON BENEFITS

If Contractor was a County contract employee immediately prior to entering into this contract, without separation from County employment, execution of this Contract shall not result in separation in County employment for purposes of determining eligibility for level of benefits including, but not limited to, health benefits, leave accrual rates, and retirement benefits. Thus, Contractor's rate for leave accruals is based on the start date of the period of continuous County employment that is extended by this Contract. Contractor shall maintain and carry forward Holiday, Vacation, other paid leave, and Sick leave balances. Contractor's retirement contribution rate is based on the date Contractor began participating in the County's general employee retirement system.

Q. BENEFITS UPON TERMINATION OF CONTRACT

Contractor Separated from County Service

Upon separation from County employment, Contractor shall be compensated for any unused Vacation and Holiday Leave at the then base rate of pay. Contractor will be eligible to convert the cash value of unused Sick Leave to the Retirement Medical Trust Fund in the same manner and amount as employees in the Attorney Unit, if eligibility requirements are met. If eligibility requirements are not met at the time of separation, unused Sick Leave shall be forfeited.

Contractor to Regular County Employment

In the event this Contract is terminated because Contractor is appointed to a regular County position without a break in service, the Contractor shall retain original Regular Hire Date for

purposes of calculating benefits. The date of hire will establish eligibility for benefits. Eligibility for benefits, including, but not limited to, retirement system contributions, health benefits, and leave accrual rates shall be based upon the provisions of the applicable Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) or ordinance in effect at the time Contractor was originally appointed to a regular County position. Seniority, for purposes of layoff, shall be determined by the original Regular Hire Date or as otherwise provided in the applicable MOU.

If appointment to a regular position is made, unused leave balances shall be maintained and carried over. Any leave balances carried over shall be in accordance with the applicable MOU for the bargaining unit associated with the position into which the Contractor was hired.

Contractor to New Contract Position

In the event the Contractor accepts another Contract position with the County without a break in service, Contractor shall maintain and carry over existing leave accrual rates and unused leave balances. Any leave balances carried over shall be in accordance with the applicable MOU for the bargaining unit associated with the position into which the Contractor was hired.

R. DEPUTY ATTORNEY V COMPENSATION

If Contractor is in a position performing duties that require a greater level of skill and/or difficulty, and/or demonstrate exceptional performance in a position contractor may be eligible for Deputy Attorney V compensation. No compensation shall be paid for assignments resulting from any situation related to a vacation, short-term illness or other temporary relief of six (6) weeks or less.

Compensation – Eligible contract employee may be granted Deputy Attorney V compensation of five percent (5%) or seven and one-half percent (7.5%) of the employee's current base pay for each pay period, if such increase is (1) recommended by the appointing authority and (2) approved by the Director of Human Resources. Said compensation shall be considered earnable compensation.

Administration – Requests for Deputy Attorney V compensation may be initiated by the appointing authority. This compensation is to be effective only with the Director of Human Resources written approval (which shall not be unreasonably denied), assignment of the greater level of duties, and signed acceptance by the employee. Under no circumstances will the compensation be granted retroactively.

V. GENERAL PROVISIONS RELATING TO CONTRACTOR

A. TOUR OF DUTY

Contractor's standard tour of duty (regularly scheduled workweek) shall be established by the Public Defender, or designee. The Public Defender, or designee, may modify or change the number of hours in a standard day, tour of duty or shift to meet the needs of the service. Contractor shall not work more than forty (40) hours per workweek without prior approval from the Public Defender, or his/her designee. The Public Defender shall have the right to direct Contractor to take such time off as is necessary to ensure that Contractor's actual time worked does not exceed forty (40) hours within any given work period.

B. CLASSIFICATION

Contractor will not attain regular status in this position, and as an unclassified Contract employee, will not be provided those rights under the San Bernardino County Personnel Rules afforded only to employees who have attained regular status. This Contract does not expand or alter any jurisdiction established by the Personnel Rules or any MOU. Contractor shall adhere to the County's and the Commission's standards of employee conduct, including all applicable rules, policies, and regulations. Violation of applicable standards may result in Contract termination or lesser penalties.

C. WORKERS' COMPENSATION AND LIABILITY COVERAGES

Contractor shall be covered by the County's Workers' Compensation insurance coverage during the hours actually worked under this Contract. Contractor shall be covered by the County's Public Liability. Insurance only while performing services under this Contract. Contractor shall only receive those benefits as required by law.

D. USE OF PRIVATE VEHICLE

If the services to be performed under this Contract require Contractor to drive a vehicle, Contractor must possess a valid California Driver License at all times during the performance of duties under this Contract.

Contractor agrees to allow the County to obtain a Department of Motor Vehicles report of Contractor's driving record.

In order for Contractor to be able to use a private vehicle during the performance of duties under this Contract, Contractor shall be covered by vehicle liability insurance at least equal to the minimum requirements of the California Vehicle Code. Such requirements currently are:

1. Fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000) for single injury or death;
2. Thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000) for multiple injury or death;
3. Five thousand dollars (\$5,000) for property damage.

Failure to comply with the requirements of this Paragraph shall be deemed cause for termination of this Contract, pursuant to Section III above.

E. EVIDENCE OF ELIGIBILITY TO WORK

Contractor shall submit evidence of eligibility to work in the United States and verification of identity within three (3) working days of the effective date of this Contract. Contractor shall submit to and successfully complete a pre-employment background check, including a medical examination through the County's Center for Employee Health and Wellness before employment commences. This provision is satisfied if Contractor is a current employee or Contractor who previously met the requirements of this provision.

F. LICENSURE

Contractor shall maintain all applicable licenses to provide the services described in this Contract and shall immediately notify the Chief Deputy Public Defender if any license is denied, suspended, restricted, terminated, revoked, or relinquished for any reason, whether voluntary or involuntary.

G. DIRECT DEPOSIT

Contractor must make arrangements for the direct deposit of paychecks into the financial institution of their choice via electronic fund transfer. Inability or failure by Contractor to make such arrangements will result in the County paying Contractor via pay card.

I. MISCELLANEOUS

Government Code section 53243.2 requires the following provision be included in this Contract: If this Contract is terminated, any cash settlement related to the termination that Contractor may receive from the County shall be fully reimbursed to the County if Contractor is convicted of a crime involving an abuse of his or her office or position, as defined in Section 53243.4.

VI. CONCLUSION

- A. This Contract, consisting of ten (10) pages, is the full and complete document describing services regarding the Contractors rights and obligations of the parties, including all covenants, conditions, and benefits.
- B. This Contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, each of which so executed shall be deemed to be an original, and such counterparts shall together constitute one and the same Contract. The parties shall be entitled to sign and transmit an electronic signature of this Contract (whether by facsimile, PDF or other email transmission), which signature shall be binding on the party whose name is contained therein. Each party providing an electronic signature agrees to promptly execute and deliver to the other party an original signed Contract upon request.

SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY

► Dawn Rowe
Dawn Rowe, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Dated: NOV 19 2024

SIGNED AND CERTIFIED THAT A COPY OF THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DELIVERED TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

By Lynna Monell
Lynna Monell
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
San Bernardino County
Deputy



(Print or type name of corporation, company, contractor, etc.)

By ► [Signature]
(Authorized signature - sign in blue ink)

Name Loretta Ramirez
(Print or type name of person signing contract)

Title Deputy Public Defender IV
(Print or Type)

Dated: 11/7/24

Address On file

FOR COUNTY USE ONLY

Approved as to Legal Form
► [Signature]
Scott Runyan, Principal Assistant County Counsel
Date 11/11/24

Reviewed for Contract Compliance
► _____
Date _____

Reviewed/Approved by Department
► _____
Thomas W. Sone, Public Defender
Date _____