



WEST DES MOINES WATER WORKS BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING COMMUNICATION

DATE: July 20, 2022

ITEM:

6. Recommendations from Staff
 - c. Motion – Approving a Legal Services Agreement with Driscoll Firm, LLC and others to Provide Legal Assistance for a PFAS Class Action Lawsuit

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None currently. The attorneys are not compensated unless WDMWW is successful in recovering damages.

SUMMARY:

The West Des Moines Water Works (WDMWW) along with the Des Moines Water Works (DMWW) were recently approached by a combination of law firms that represent a multi-district class action lawsuit against the manufacturers of the PFAS compounds. Over 70 utilities have signed on to the lawsuit. DMWW is likely to take up consideration at their board meeting at the end of July.

While new federal funding will provide some assistance for PFAS mitigation, it is unlikely that WDMWW will qualify for anything significant as these funds are marked for smaller disadvantaged communities. With the recent changes to the EPA health advisory, a significant number of utilities are going to be impacted by PFAS including WDMWW. Joining the lawsuit may provide the utility with compensation that can go towards further mitigation and the replacement of our most affected wells. Staff worked with Brick Gentry on the legal services agreement.

BACKGROUND:

In 2021, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) conducted sampling of utilities for a variety of PFAS related compounds. This was also done back in 2014 as part of the Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR). However, testing methods did not detect to the level they do presently so in 2014 WDMWW did not have any detects but in the sampling by IDNR, WDMWW showed detects of several PFAS compounds including those that had health advisories. WDMWW has made every effort to minimize the PFAS in our finished drinking water and will continue to do so. EPA is expected to issue a proposed draft rule on a maximum contaminant level for at least four PFAS compounds this fall.

RECOMMENDED ACTION BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

To concur with Staff Recommendation and Approve a Legal Services Agreement with Driscoll Firm, LLC and others to Provide Legal Assistance Regarding a PFAS Class Action Lawsuit.

Prepared by: Clte Murphy

Approved for Content by: Clte Murphy

**WEST DES MOINES WATER WORKS
LEGAL SERVICES AGREEMENT**

I. INTRODUCTION

A. RECITALS.

1. The West Des Moines Water Works (“Client”) is committed to delivering clean drinking water to its citizens. Client is also committed to identifying responsible parties and taking reasonable steps to avoid passing on the costs to its consumers for the treatment and remediation of contamination.

2. The Driscoll Firm, LLC; Kennedy & Madonna, LLP; SL Environmental Law Group PC; Douglas & London, P.C.; Levin, Papantonio, Rafferty, Proctor, Buchanan, O’Brien, Barr, Mougey, P.A., Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP and Kelley Drye & Warren, LLP (collectively the “Firms”) are together a team of uniquely qualified and experienced attorneys who have joined together to assist public entities facing the challenges posed by contamination with per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (“PFAS”). The Firms are comprised of the foremost attorneys in the nation with experience both in PFAS litigation and in the representation of public entities and water suppliers in cases involving groundwater contamination.

3. The purpose of this Legal Services Agreement (“LSA” or “Agreement”) is (i) to enter into an attorney-client relationship between Client and the Firms (collectively, the “Parties”) for the purpose of investigating and assessing potential claims arising out of the presence of contaminants in water supply wells affecting Client’s water systems; and (ii) to provide for the terms and conditions for the representation of Client in any civil action that may be filed in the United States District Court and any proceeding by writ or appeal related to that action filed on behalf of Client by the Firms (“Legal Action”).

II. INVESTIGATION AND ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL CLAIMS

A. PRE-LITIGATION SCOPE OF SERVICES.

1. **Contaminants.** Client has detected the presence of several PFAS compounds (the “Contaminants” or “Contamination”) during testing of waters in its system. The engineering, construction, and operation and maintenance of systems to treat contamination in affected wells will result in significant financial costs to Client.

2. **Investigation.** Client has retained the Firms to assist Client in investigating the presence of the Contaminants throughout its system and potential sources of the Contamination, evaluate the potential to recover the costs associated with the Contamination, provide advice, and represent Client in any Legal Action against parties potentially responsible for the Contamination.

B. PRE-LITIGATION COSTS AND FEES.

1. **Client.** All costs associated with Client’s pre-litigation investigation of the Contaminants, including those associated with water sampling, laboratory testing and engineering expenses shall be paid directly by Client. For the avoidance of doubt, nothing contained herein shall obligate Client to incur any costs to investigate the Contaminants beyond what it has already expended.

2. **The Firms.** All costs and fees incurred by the Firms during any pre-litigation investigation shall not be charged to Client nor recoverable by the Firms against Client under this Agreement.

3. **Other.** Nothing contained herein should be interpreted to preclude seeking recovery of such fees and costs incurred by either Party as part of any Legal Action that may be filed pursuant to this Agreement. In addition, if the Firms file any Legal Action, the Firms may use the time incurred for any investigation contemplated herein to support the reasonableness of this Agreement.

C. RETENTION OF FIRM RATHER THAN PARTICULAR ATTORNEYS. Client is retaining the Firms, not any particular attorney, and attorney services to be provided to Client shall not necessarily be performed by any particular attorney.

D. DESIGNATION. Client designates Brick Gentry Law Firm as its authorized representative to direct the Firms and to be the primary individual to communicate with the Firms regarding the subject matter of its representation of Client under this Agreement. This designation is intended to establish a clear line of authority and to minimize potential uncertainty, but not to preclude communication between the Firms and other representatives of Client. Client may designate additional authorized representatives at its discretion.

III. LITIGATION SERVICES

A. LITIGATION SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED.

1. **Inclusions.** It is the intent of the Parties that the Firms shall represent Client in a civil action for damages in the United States District Court as well as in any proceeding by writ or appeal related to that action. The legal services to be provided by the Firms consist of representation of Client with respect to:

a. The contamination of groundwater supplies and/or soil by the Contaminants or other contaminants identified during the investigation stage described in Section II of this Agreement, as approved by Client and the Firms.

b. Claims and/or actions for damages sustained by Client as a result of actual or threatened conduct relating to contamination of groundwater, the loss of use of groundwater, and any past, present, and future costs incurred to remove the Contaminants from drinking water, groundwater and/or soil, and any related appeals in such actions.

2. **Retention; Filing of Legal Action.** The filing of any Legal Action pursuant to this Agreement shall be at the discretion of the Parties. Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as obligating Client to retain the Firms in connection with any Legal Action or obligating the Firms to file a Legal Action on behalf of Client.

B. LEGAL SERVICES SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED.

1. **Exclusions.** Legal services that are not to be provided by the Firms under this Agreement specifically include, but are not limited to, the following:

a. Proceedings before any administrative or governmental agency, department or board. However, at Client's election, the Firms shall appear at such administrative proceedings to protect Client's rights to pursue any Legal Action filed pursuant to this Agreement, without Client being assessed any additional attorneys' fees in connection with such appearance.

b. Defending any legal action(s) against Client commenced by any person, with the exception of any cross-complaints, counterclaims, or other third-party claims filed in a Legal Action pursuant to this Agreement.

c. Defending any claim against Client for unreasonable use of water and/or waste of water.

d. Defending any action concerning water rights.

2. ***Additional Legal Services.*** If Client wishes to retain the Firms to provide any legal services for additional compensation not provided under this Agreement, a separate written agreement between the Firms and Client shall be required.

C. RESPONSIBILITIES OF ATTORNEY AND CLIENT.

1. ***The Firms Responsibilities.*** The Firms shall perform the legal services called for under this Agreement, keep Client informed of progress and developments, and respond promptly to Client's inquiries and communications. The Firms shall provide status reports to Client on a mutually agreeable schedule, as events reasonably warrant further reporting, and at the further request of Client.

2. ***Client Responsibilities.*** Client shall cooperate with the Firms and keep the Firms reasonably informed of developments in connection with any Legal Action.

3. ***Selection of Experts.*** The Firms and Client shall meet and confer regarding selection and retention of experts in the Legal Action. Client shall not unreasonably withhold approval of selection and retention of such experts. Client shall not be required to pay for the selection or retention of experts. These costs will be advanced by the Firms and be reimbursed pursuant to this Agreement only in the event of a recovery.

4. ***Settlement.*** The Firms shall not settle any Legal Action without the approval of Client. Client shall have the absolute right to accept or reject any settlement. The Firms shall notify Client promptly of the terms of any settlement offer received by the Firms.

5. ***Client Agreement Not to Use, Share, or Disclose the Firms' Work Product Outside the Context of this Legal Action.*** Client agrees that it shall not use or disclose in any legal proceeding, case, or other context of any kind, other than this Legal Action, or share or disclose to any person not a Party to this Agreement, any documents, work product, or other information made available to or to which Client or their counsel acquire access through the Firms or any co-counsel of the Firms, including any fact or expert materials produced and/or generated in any prior discovery proceedings in any litigation involving E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company, The Chemours Company, and/or the 3M Company, without the express written prior approval and consent of the Firms and all such other co-counsel of the Firms.

D. ATTORNEYS' FEES.

1. ***Contingent Fee.*** The amount the Attorneys shall receive as fee for the legal services provided under this Agreement shall consist of a contingent fee ("Contingent Fee"), which shall be thirty-three and one third percent (33.333%) of/from the Gross Recovery.

2. ***Definitions Relevant to Attorneys' Fees.***

a. "Costs" include, but are not limited to, court filing fees, deposition costs, expert fees and expenses, investigation costs, reasonable travel and hotel expenses, messenger service fees, photocopying expenses, and process server fees. Items that are not to be considered Costs, and that must be paid by Client without being either advanced or contributed to by the Firms, include Client's expenses incurred in providing information to the Firms or defendants.

b. "Settlement" refers to any voluntary agreement executed by Client and any third party to this Agreement, whether resulting from a settlement conference, mediation, or court stipulation, terminating any Legal Action filed pursuant to this Agreement and finally determining the rights of parties to the Legal Action where no issue is left for future consideration or appeal.

c. "Cash Recovery" means, without limitation, the total monetary amount received by Client in a Settlement or Final Judgment arising from an actual or threatened Legal Action by the Firms pursuant to this Agreement, including interest of any kind received by Client.

d. "Non-Cash Recovery" means, without limitation, the fair market value of any property delivered to Client, any services rendered for Client's benefit, and any other non-cash benefit, including but not limited to the construction, operation, and maintenance of one or more water treatment facilities; delivery of replacement water; modification, alteration, construction or operation of well(s) and/or any part of a public or private water system; or any other types of injunctive and/or equitable relief conferred on Client, in a Settlement or Final Judgment of an actual or threatened Legal Action by the Firms pursuant to this Agreement.

e. "Present Value" means the interest rate of the one-year treasury bill as reported by the United States Federal Reserve in the weekly Federal Reserve Statistical Release closest in time to the date of the recovery for which the present value is being calculated.

f. "Reasonable Fees" or "Reasonable Attorney's Fee" means such fees as is reasonably determined by taking into account the amount of time spent on the Legal Action by the Firms and associate counsel retained by the Firms, the value of that time, the complexity of the Legal Action, the benefit conferred on Client, and the financial risk to the Firms and associate counsel by their agreeing to represent Client in the Legal Action and to invest time and advance Costs without compensation or reimbursement in the event that there is no Gross Recovery or a Gross Recovery that does not fully compensate or reimburse the Firms and associate counsel for their time and advanced Costs.

3. ***Calculation of Non-Cash Recovery.***

a. For any Non-Cash Recovery resulting in the receipt of property, the provision of services, or the receipt of other non-monetary benefits by Client, such property, services, or other non-monetary benefits shall be deemed for purposes of this Agreement to have been received by Client upon the execution of a Settlement or Final Judgment. The value of the services shall be discounted to Present Value.

b. If any Non-Cash Recovery is awarded in a Final Judgment, or before accepting any settlement offer that involves a Non-Cash Recovery, Client shall provide the Firms with its estimate of the value of the Non-Cash Recovery. The Firms shall promptly respond in writing, indicating whether the firms accept said estimate. If the Firms object to Client's estimate, the Parties shall proceed as set forth in Section III.G ("Disagreements Concerning Value of Recoveries"). Nothing herein shall impede or restrict Client's right to include a Non-Cash Recovery in any Settlement, nor the Firms' right to receive a Non-Cash Recovery.

E. DISTRIBUTION OF PROCEEDS.

1. ***Pay-if-Paid; Option for Advance Payment.*** Receipt of any Gross Recovery by Client is a condition precedent to payment of any portion of the Contingent Fee by Client to the Firms. Undisputed payment(s) of the Contingent Fee owed to the Firms in accordance with Agreement shall be made no later than seven (7) days after receipt by Client of any Gross Recovery. Notwithstanding the foregoing, Client, in its sole and absolute discretion, may choose to pay any Cash Recovery portion of the Contingent Fee prior to receipt of any Gross Recovery by Client ("Advance Payment"). Upon Client's election to make an Advance Payment, Client shall estimate the amount and timing of outstanding Cash Recoveries, treat all such outstanding payments as constructively received by Client upon the execution of a Settlement or Final Judgment requiring such payments, discount all such payments to their Present Value as of the time of said Settlement or Final Judgment, and pay the Firms the Contingent Fee due on the Present Value of such portion of the Cash Recovery at that time. Nothing herein shall be construed to modify how any amount shall be distributed or the Parties' remedies in this Agreement upon a dispute over any estimate or amount due under this Agreement.

2. ***Distribution; Revolving Fund.*** The receipt of any Gross Recovery by Client shall be distributed as follows: (i) all unpaid Costs shall be paid, including all Costs advanced by the Firms, which shall be reimbursed, (ii) the Contingent Fee shall be paid until the Firms are paid in full, and (iii) any remaining amounts shall be paid to Client. Notwithstanding the foregoing, if Client receives a Cash Recovery in a Settlement that is entered while a Legal Action remains pending, and the Cash Recovery is in excess of any unpaid Costs, the unreimbursed Costs advanced by the Firms, and the Contingent Fee, a revolving fund of \$500,000 ("Revolving Fund") shall be maintained from Client's share of said Cash Recovery to apply to subsequent Costs incurred as part of the then-ongoing Legal Action. Replenishment of the Revolving Fund shall occur within thirty (30) days of the fund becoming drawn down to \$250,000; however, in no event shall Client be required to replenish the Revolving Fund with monies in excess of Client's share of the Cash Recovery obtained to date.

Use of Monies Held in Trust. The firms are authorized to apply any funds received on behalf of Client in connection with a Settlement or Final Judgment and held in The Firms' trust account to the payment of any Costs owed to third parties to this Agreement; provided that for any payments in excess of \$1,000, the Firms shall furnish copies of third party invoices for Client's review at least seven (7) days prior to making said payments.

F. REASONABLE FEE IF CONTINGENT FEE UNENFORCEABLE.

1. **Reasonable Fee.** In the event of a Final Judgment finding that the Contingent Fee portion of this Agreement is unenforceable for any reason or that the Firms cannot represent Client on a Contingent Fee basis, Client shall pay a reasonable fee for the services rendered.

2. **Fee Determination.** The Parties shall use best efforts to negotiate a reasonable fee. If the Parties fail to do so, said fee shall be determined by arbitration proceedings before a mutually agreeable arbitration service, but absent such agreement, before the Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services (JAMS), with any costs of such proceedings born equally by Client and the Firms.

G. COURT-AWARDED AND/OR SETTLEMENT-AWARDED ATTORNEYS' FEES.

1. **Duty to Seek Attorneys' Fees and Costs in Legal Action.** Client may obtain an award of Attorneys' Fees and/or Costs in a Final Judgment or Settlement. The Firms agree to seek any such award(s) in any Legal Action it files on behalf of Client.

2. **Credit for Court-Awarded Fees and Costs.** Any Attorneys' Fees or Costs awarded in connection with a Legal Action shall not be considered part of the Gross Recovery for purposes of calculating the Firms' Contingent Fee but said fees and costs shall be applied as a credit against Client's obligation to pay the Firms' Contingent Fee under this Agreement.

3. **Court-Awarded Fees and Costs in Excess of Contingent Fee.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this Agreement, if court-awarded Attorneys' Fees and costs exceed the Contingent Fee to which the Firms would otherwise be entitled under this Agreement, the amounts due to the Firms under this Agreement shall be the court-awarded fees and costs, and Client shall receive all other amounts awarded in a Legal Action.

H. DIVISION OF ATTORNEYS' FEES.

1. **Division of Fees; Disclosure.** The Firms may divide the fees and/or costs to which it is entitled under this Agreement with another attorney or law firm retained as associate counsel. The terms of such additional division, if any, shall be disclosed to Client. Client is informed that, under the Rules of Professional Conduct, such a division may be made only with Client's written consent after a full disclosure to Client in writing that a division of fees shall be made and of the terms of such division. The division of fees and costs between the Firms has been separately provided to Client. IS THIS A REQUIREMENT UNDER IL LAW?

2. **Retention of Associate Counsel.** The Firms may retain associate counsel to assist with litigating a Legal Action pursuant to this Agreement. The attorney or law firm selected by the Firms shall be subject to Client's approval.

I. COSTS.

1. **Costs Advanced by the Firms; Interest.** The Firms shall advance all Costs incurred in connection with the Firms' representation of Client under this Agreement. Costs shall be advanced by the Firms and then paid by Client from any Gross Recovery. Interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per year shall accrue on all Costs advanced by the Firms, from the date of each

advance to the date of reimbursement. The Firms shall notify Client of the total amount of Costs advanced every quarter.

2. ***Reimbursement; Risk of Loss.*** The Firms shall be reimbursed for any Costs before any distribution to Client. If there is no Gross Recovery or the Gross Recovery is insufficient to reimburse the Firms in full for Costs advanced, the Firms shall bear the loss for any Costs not reimbursed under this Agreement.

3. ***Defense of Attorneys' Fees and Costs to Third Party.*** Notwithstanding any provision of this Agreement to the contrary, the Firms shall defend Client in any motion seeking an award of Attorneys' Fees or costs against Client in any Legal Action brought under this Agreement. The Firms shall be solely responsible for any award of Attorneys' Fees or costs against Client in any Legal Action brought under this Agreement.

IV. REPRESENTATION OF ADVERSE INTERESTS

A. DISCLOSURE.

1. ***Duty to Disclose; No Conflicts Identified.*** If any of the Firms have a relationship with another party with interests adverse to Client, or with someone who would be substantially affected by any action taken under this Agreement, the Rules of Professional Conduct require the Firms to disclose that to Client so Client can evaluate whether that relationship causes Client to have any concerns regarding any of the Firms' loyalty, objectivity, or ability to protect Client's confidential information. To the extent required, the Client waives any conflict under Iowa ethics rules

2. ***Representation of Other Clients; Waiver of Potential Conflicts.*** Client understands that currently, and from time to time, the Firms represent other municipalities, governmental agencies, governmental subdivisions, or investor-owned public water utilities in other actions or similar litigation, and that such work is the focus of the Firms' practice. Further, Client understands that the Firms represent other clients in actions similar to what would be brought under this Agreement and against the same potential defendants. Client understands that a recovery obtained on behalf of another client in a similar suit against the same defendants could, in theory, reduce the total pool of funds available from these same defendants to pay damages in a Legal Action brought under this Agreement. Client understands that the Firms would not take on this engagement if Client required the Firms to forgo representations like those described above. Client has conferred with its own separate and independent counsel about this matter, and has determined that it is in its own best interests to waive any and all potential or actual conflicts of interest that may occur as the result of the Firms' current and continuing representation of cities and other water suppliers in similar litigations, because such waiver enables Client to obtain the benefits of the Firms' experience and expertise. Therefore, Client consents that the Firms may continue to handle such work, and may take on similar new clients and matters, without disclosing each such new matter to Client or seeking the consent of Client while representing it. The Firms shall not, of course, take on such other work if it requires the Firms to be directly adverse to Client while the Firms are still representing Client under this Agreement.

V. TERMINATION

A. DISCHARGE OF ATTORNEY.

1. **Right to Discharge.** Client may discharge the Firms at any time, with or without cause, by written notice effective when received by the Firms. Client shall have the right to terminate this Agreement with cause upon the Firms breach of this Agreement or its failure to strictly adhere to Iowa Rules of Professional Conduct. Unless specifically agreed by the Firms and Client, the Firms shall provide no further services and advance no further Costs on Client's behalf after receipt of the notice. If any or all of the Firms are Client's attorney of record in any proceeding, the Firms shall immediately execute and return a substitution-of-attorney form.

2. **Reimbursement of Costs; Fees.** In the event the Firms are discharged without cause before the conclusion of a Legal Action, Client shall (i) reimburse the Firms for any and all Costs advanced by the Firms for such Legal Action not later than thirty (30) days from receipt of a reasonably detailed final cost accounting from the Firms, and (ii) upon the conclusion of the Legal Action, pay the Firms a Reasonable Attorneys' Fee for services performed up to the point of the discharge. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit Client's rights and remedies in the event of a discharge of the Firms for cause.

B. WITHDRAWAL OF ATTORNEY.

1. **Right to Withdraw.** The Firms may withdraw from representation of Client (i) with Client's consent, (ii) upon court approval, or (iii) if no Legal Action is filed, for good cause upon reasonable notice to Client. Good cause includes Client's breach of this Agreement, Client's unreasonable refusal to cooperate with the Firms or to follow the Firms' advice on a material matter, or any other fact or circumstance that would render the Firms' continuing representation unlawful or unethical. Notwithstanding the Firms' withdrawal for good cause, Client shall remain obligated to pay the Firms and any associated counsel, out of the Gross Recovery, a Reasonable Fee for all services provided and to reimburse the Firms for all reasonable Costs advanced before the withdrawal.

2. **Withdrawal Without Cause.** The Firms may terminate this Agreement at any time, without cause, by giving Client not less than sixty (60) days prior written notice of termination, said notice to specify the effective date of the termination. Where the Firms terminate this Agreement without cause, the Firms shall not be entitled to the recovery of any amount, regardless of the status of any pending Legal Action, and regardless of whether any amounts have been or are subsequently received by Client.

VI. MISCELLANEOUS

A. LIEN. Client hereby grants the Firms a lien on any and all claims or causes of action that are the subject of the Firms' Contingent Fee and/or Costs advanced under this Agreement. The Firms' lien shall be for sums owed to the Firms for any unpaid Contingent Fee or Costs at the conclusion of the Firms' services. The lien shall attach to any Gross Recovery Client may obtain.

B. RELEASE OF CLIENT'S PAPERS AND PROPERTY. Upon the conclusion of services under this Agreement, the Firms shall release promptly to Client on request all of Client's papers and property. "Client's papers and property" includes correspondence, deposition transcripts, exhibits, experts' reports, legal documents, physical evidence, and other items reasonably necessary to Client's representation, regardless of whether Client has paid for said documents or property.

C. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR. The relationship to Client of the Firms, and any associate counsel or paralegal provided through the Firms, in the performance of services hereunder, is that of independent contractor and not that of employee of Client, and no other wording of this Agreement shall stand in derogation. The fees and expenses paid to the Firms hereunder shall be deemed revenues or expense reimbursements of the Firms' offices practices and not remuneration for individual employment apart from the business of the individual Firm's law offices.

D. NOTICES. All written notices and communications to Client relating to this Agreement shall be mailed to or personally delivered to Client, addressed to: **General Manager, West Des Moines Water Works, 1505 Railroad Avenue, West Des Moines, IA 50265.** Written notices and communications to the Firms relating hereto shall be mailed to or personally delivered to Kennedy & Madonna, LLP, 48 Dewitt Mills Road, Hurley, NY 12443, unless and until Kennedy & Madonna, LLP shall have given written notice to Client of a change in such office address.

E. CONFIDENTIALITY. This Agreement establishes the relation of attorney-client between the parties hereto. The Firms shall hold all money and property of Client in trust for Client's benefit, with all funds deposited and managed in the Firms' client trust account as required by law. The Firms shall not divulge Client's confidences and shall be entitled to the candid cooperation of all Client's employees in all matters related to the assigned files and any related actions. Furthermore, this Agreement is an attorney-client communication and shall not be disclosed by Client or the Firms to any third party, except as may otherwise be required by law. In the event of a request, demand, or lawsuit to compel Client to provide a copy of this Agreement or a description of its terms, the Firms shall work with Client to provide an appropriate response and the Firms shall defend any such litigation at the Firms' cost. Nothing herein shall preclude the Firms and Client from agreeing together to disclose the Agreement or its terms.

F. DISCLAIMER OF GUARANTEE. Although the Firms may offer an opinion about possible results regarding the subject matter of this Agreement, the Firms cannot guarantee any particular result. Client acknowledges that none of the Firms have made promises about the outcome and that any opinion offered by the Firms in the future shall not constitute a guarantee.

G. ENTIRE AGREEMENT. This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. No other agreement, statement, or promise made on or before the effective date of this Agreement shall be binding on the parties.

H. SEVERABILITY IN EVENT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY. If any provision of this Agreement is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire agreement shall be severable and remain in effect.

I. MODIFICATION BY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT. This Agreement may be modified by subsequent agreement of the parties only by an instrument in writing, approved and executed in the same manner as the initial Agreement.

J. RECITALS; TITLES, SUBTITLES, HEADINGS. The recitals to this Agreement are part of this Agreement, but all titles, subtitles, or headings in this Agreement have been inserted for convenience, and shall not be deemed to affect the meaning or construction of any of the terms or provisions of this Agreement.

William J. Jackson Date
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