



## STAFF REPORT

**Report To:** Board of Supervisors      **Meeting Date:** June 18, 2026

**Staff Contact:** Carol Akers, Purchasing and Contracts Administrator

**Agenda Title:** For Possible Action: Discussion and possible action regarding Contract No. 27300012 for Berkich Lucey Law Group, PLLC, through Sarah White, Esq. and Brittany K. Puzey, Esq., to serve as appointed conflict counsel for indigent defendants for a term beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2029, for a total amount not to exceed \$890,172. (Carol Akers, cakers@carsoncity.gov and Glen Martel, gmartel@carsoncity.gov)

**Agenda Action:** Formal Action / Motion      **Time Requested:** Consent

### **Proposed Motion**

I move to approve the contract as presented.

### **Board's Strategic Goal**

Efficient Government

### **Previous Action**

N/A

### **Background/Issues & Analysis**

Pursuant to the new Indigent Defense Representation Plan and requirements, the Board is required to select the conflict counsel for the contracts. Prior to the new regulations, the judges in the First Judicial District Court, the Juvenile Magistrate, and the Carson City Justice of the Peace/Municipal Court judges convened, reviewed resumes, and recommended the desired conflict attorney to the Board.

An announcement soliciting Letters of Interest for the contract was published in the Nevada Appeal, Washoe County Bar Association, and the First Judicial Bar Association. Ms. White and Ms. Puzey, for Berkich Lucey Law Group, PLLC, submitted a letter of interest.

Fee was calculated by \$24,000 per month for \$288,000 in year one, with a 3% increase for year 2 at \$296,640, and a 3% increase for year 3 at \$305,532. The proposed rate anticipates 104 cases per year, which is very reasonable at just \$2,769 per case in year 1.

### **Applicable Statute, Code, Policy, Rule or Regulation**

NRS 332.115

### **Financial Information**

**Is there a fiscal impact?** Yes

**If yes, account name/number:** General Fund, Department of Indigent Defense, Conflict Counsel  
Account - 1010611-500361

**Is it currently budgeted?** Yes

**Explanation of Fiscal Impact:** If approved \$288,000 will be reduced from #1010610-500361, which has a budget of \$254,000 for FY 2027. It is anticipated that the Nevada Department of Indigent Defense Services (DIDS) will reimburse these expenditures, and therefore, this budget and revenue will be augmented/increased by \$34,000.

**Alternatives**

Do not approve the contract and/or provide alternative direction to staff.

**Attachment(s):**

[Conflict Case Proposal Letter.pdf](#)

[27300012 DRAFT Contract.pdf](#)

Motion: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Aye/Nay

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(Vote Recorded By)