

ROCKINGHAM COUNTY GOVERNMENT



NOTICE

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR SPECIAL LEGAL COUNSEL

Rockingham County, a body politic and corporate organized under the laws of the State of North Carolina, is soliciting information from lawyers and/or law firms regarding their interest and ability to act as special legal counsel for the purpose of investigation and possible litigation involving the manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of opioid products in the County.

November 9, 2017

Rockingham County is an Equal Opportunity Employer

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Rockingham County, like many local government units across the United States, is in the midst of a crisis involving opiate addiction (hereinafter sometimes "Crisis"). This Crisis has placed upon the County a financial burden for which the County believes that those involved in the manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of opioid products in the County may bear responsibility and therefore may be liable to the County for damages.

Intent: The intent of this request is to obtain the most qualified and experienced individual or firm to act as Special Legal Counsel representing the County in connection with an investigation and possible litigation involving the manufacture, marketing, sale, and distribution of opioid products in the County.

Fee and Cost: Special Legal Counsel, if retained, will be retained pursuant to a contingent fee arrangement, and must therefore have resources sufficient to advance all costs, including the costs of any experts needed to perform or assist in the performance of the work contemplated in this RFI. In addition, the County expects that, should this undertaking yield no compensation and/or an amount of compensation that fails to cover the cost of the undertaking, the Special Legal Counsel will bear all costs, including any advanced. Special Legal Counsel must also be free of any conflicts of interest. Current representation of an entity that manufactures or distributes opioid products will present an insurmountable conflict.

Retention will include significant evaluative and investigative preparatory work. Litigation may include drafting pleadings, motions, briefs, and all other papers to be filed in court; conducting and responding to discovery; attending all pre-trial, trial and post-trial court appearances; and handling appeals.

Procedure: The Selected Special Legal Counsel will work closely with the County Attorney to coordinate with the Selected Special Legal Counsel. All legal services are to be provided only at the request of the County Attorney and shall be subject to the County Attorney's active oversight and supervision. All advice is to be provided directly to the County Attorney or to individuals identified and/or designated by the County Attorney. The County Attorney shall retain veto power over any decisions made by the selected Special Legal Counsel, subject to Special Legal Counsel's right to seek court protection for any alleged conflict with the Special Legal Counsel's ethical duties.

If you or your firm are interested in serving as Special Legal Counsel as contemplated in this RFI, please email County Attorney, Emily Sloop, esloop@co.rockingham.nc.us within fourteen days of this notice. Please include your relevant experience and qualifications in the email. Please contact Emily Sloop with any questions via either her email address abovementioned or by office phone (336) 342-8347.

Due back no later than November 24, 2017.