



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
Risk Management wishes to engage the specialized legal services of outside counsel who are experts in legal matters involving tort claims and civil litigation. Risk Management currently has limited selection for general liability counsel who specialize in excessive force and inmate lawsuits.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
Manning Kass, LLP
Attn: Mildred O'Linn
801 South Figueroa, 15th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90017
213-624-5900
Missy.olinn@manningkass.com
3. What is the total cost of the acquisition? If an agreement, state the total cost of the initial term and the amounts for potential renewal terms.
Not to exceed \$1,500,000 annually. The term will be from 12/9/2025 through 12/8/2028, with two optional one-year extensions.
4. Identify the unique qualities and/or capabilities of the service(s) and/or product(s) that qualify this as a Suspension of Competition acquisition.
The firm was referred for assignment through Douglas Sloan, County Counsel.
5. Identify from Administrative Policy #34 what circumstances constitute a Suspension of Competition.
☐ In an emergency when goods or services are immediately necessary for the preservation of the public health, welfare, or safety, or for the protection of County property.
☐ When the contract is with a federal, state, or local governmental agency.
☐ When the department head, with the concurrence of the Purchasing Agent, finds that the cost of preparing and administering a competitive bidding process in a particular case will equal or exceed the estimated contract amount or \$5,000 whichever is more.
☐ When a contract provides only for payment of per diem and travel expenses and there is to be no payment for services rendered.
☒ When obtaining the services of expert witnesses for litigation or special counsel to assist the County.
☐ When in unusual or extraordinary circumstances, the Board of Supervisors or the Purchasing Agent/Purchasing Manager determines that the best interests of the County would be served by not securing competitive bids or issuing a request for proposal.
6. Explain why the unique qualities and/or capabilities described above are essential to your department.
Risk Management is seeking to engage specialized legal counsel to handle excessive force and inmate litigation matters, which represent some of the County's highest exposure cases. These cases require not only deep subject matter expertise, but also a proven ability to navigate complex constitutional and civil rights issues.
Mr. Sloan has worked successfully with this firm for over 15 years, consistently achieving favorable outcomes in high-stakes litigation. In addition, the firm comes highly recommended by the Sheriff's Office, further reinforcing its suitability for this engagement.
7. Provide a comprehensive explanation of the research done to verify that the recommended vendor is the only vendor with the unique qualities and/or capabilities stated above. Include a list of all other vendors contacted, what they were asked, and their responses.
This engagement originated with a direct referral, and as such, alternative service providers were not actively solicited or evaluated during the initial selection process. However, the vendor has demonstrated strong qualifications based on the firsthand experience of the County Counsel and other stakeholders. Their background reflects the necessary expertise, specialized knowledge, and proven track record required to perform the requested legal services with competence, consistency, and reliability.

jmthompson 11/10/2025 9:35:44 AM

Requested By:

Risk Manager

Title

[\[Sign\]](#) Double click!

I approve this request to suspend competition for the service(s) and/or product(s) identified herein.

jbarr 11/12/2025 9:20:58 AM

[\[Sign\]](#) Double click!

Department Head Signature

rblackburn 11/13/2025 10:48:53 AM

Purchasing Manager Signature

[\[✕ Sign\]](#) Double click!