



Suspension of Competition Acquisition Request

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1. Fully describe the product(s) and/or service(s) being requested.
Risk Management wished to continue to engage the specialized legal services of Aleshire & Wynder, LLP, who are experts in legal matters involving tort claims and civil litigation. Aleshire & Wynder has been providing legal services to the County since August 24, 2021 and is currently assigned cases in active litigation.
2. Identify the selected vendor and contact person; include the address, phone number and e-mail address for each.
Aleshire & Wynder, LLP
Attn: Shannon Chaffin
2440 Tulare Street, Suite 410
Fresno, CA 93721
559-445-4580
schaffin@awattorneys.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 retroactive from August 24, 2025 through August 23, 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 has been providing legal services for the County since August 2021, and has demonstrated success in timely resolution of claims, resulting in reduced losses to the County. The firm is assigned cases in active litigation, which would incur additional expense to assign to another firm.
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 engages specialized legal counsel to handle litigation matters. These cases require deep subject matter expertise and a proven ability to handle complicated civil litigation. Aleshire & Wynder has demonstrated expertise in dangerous condition, personal injury, and other civil liability matters, achieving favorable outcomes.
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.
Aleshire & Wynder is actively engaged in ongoing litigation on behalf of the County. Their established familiarity with the case history, strategy, and evidentiary record has resulted in consistent, high quality representation and measurable progress and transitioning these complex, active cases to a new firm would require significant duplication of effort, substantial additional cost, and potential delays that could adversely affect case outcomes. Continuing with the firm ensures continuity, preserves institutional knowledge, and avoids unnecessary expenditures associated with onboarding new counsel.

jmthompson 12/29/2025 5:06:13 PM

Requested By:

Risk Manager

Title

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

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

hmagill 12/30/2025 10:20:19 AM

Department Head Signature

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

