

# Agenda Summary Report (ASR)

## Franklin County Board of Commissioners

<b>DATE SUBMITTED:</b> 11/16/2023	<b>PREPARED BY:</b> Whitney Conner
<b>Meeting Date Requested:</b> 11/29/2023	<b>PRESENTED BY:</b> Office of Public Defense
<b>ITEM:</b> (Select One) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda Brought Before the Board Time needed:	
<b>SUBJECT:</b> Professional Services Agreement with Michael Anthoni Nguyen for Preliminary Appearance Representation	
<b>FISCAL IMPACT:</b> N/A	
<b>BACKGROUND:</b> Mr. Nguyen is in agreement with the terms of said contract. He has agreed to contract with the County to offer the services for representation at preliminary appearances in Superior Court for an additional 2 years.	
<b>COORDINATION:</b> Larry Zeigler, OPD Manager Whitney Conner, OPD Coordinator	
<b>RECOMMENDATION:</b> Approve the professional services agreement with Michael Anthoni Nguyen for representation in Franklin County Superior Court	
<b>ATTACHMENTS:</b> (Documents you are submitting to the Board) ASR –Resolution-Contract	
<b>HANDLING / ROUTING:</b> (Once document is fully executed it will be imported into Document Manager. Please list <u>name(s)</u> of party(s) that will need a pdf.) Original : Clerk of the Board OPD	

*I certify the above information is accurate and complete.*

Name: Larry Zeigler

Title: OPD Manager

**FRANKLIN COUNTY RESOLUTION \_\_\_\_\_**

*BEFORE THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON*

**EXECUTION OF A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH  
ATTORNEY MICHAEL ANTHONI NGUYEN TO REPRESENT INDIGENT PERSONS FOR  
PRELIMINARY APPEARANCES IN FRANKLIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

**WHEREAS**, Franklin County is obligated by law to provide indigent defense services in Franklin County Superior Court; and

**WHEREAS**, attorney Michael Anthoni Nguyen has expressed interest in providing such services for Franklin County Superior Court; and

**WHEREAS**, Franklin County wishes to contract with attorney Michael Anthoni Nguyen until December 31, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Attorney Michael Anthoni Nguyen, is qualified and interested in providing such representation and it appears appropriate to award the professional services agreement to provide such representation to him; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT** the professional services agreement with Michael Anthoni Nguyen, be executed as presented.

**DATED** this . . . . . day of . . . . ., 20 . . . .

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair Pro Tem

\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

**ATTEST:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Board

**PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE LEGAL  
PRELIMINARY APPEARANCE REPRESENTATION TO INDIGENT  
PERSONS IN FRANKLIN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT**

CONTRACT SUMMARY			
Contract Type	Franklin County Superior Court – Preliminary Appearance		
Contract Number	NGUY12312025FCSCPA	Contract Holder	Michael Anthoni Nguyen
WSBA #	58008	Effective Dates	01/01/2024 – 12/31/25
Caseload Cap	N/A	Compensation	\$3,650/month

**THIS AGREEMENT** is entered into by and between **Michael Anthoni Nguyen**, attorney at law, Washington State Bar Association # **58008** ("Attorney"), and **FRANKLIN COUNTY**, a State of Washington political subdivisions ("County"), for and on behalf of the Franklin County Superior and District Courts.

**THIS AGREEMENT IS ENTERED INTO BASED UPON THE FOLLOWING FACTS AND CIRCUMSTANCES:**

- A. The County has the legal responsibility to provide legal defense services to indigent persons charged with crimes alleged to have been committed within the County's jurisdictional boundaries.
- B. Attorney has experience in defending persons charged with crimes and desires to contract with the County to provide legal defense services to indigent persons charged with crimes alleged to have been committed within the County's jurisdictional boundaries.
- C. The County wishes to provide counsel at time of all Preliminary Appearances to all defendants who appear, in and out of custody, to face charges in Franklin County Superior Court to include warrant matters and probation violations.
- D. Attorney wishes to, and is capable of, providing provisional representation to all defendants who appear, in and out of custody, to face charges in Franklin County District Court.

**NOW, THEREFORE**, for and in consideration of the mutual covenants and agreements contained herein, the County and Attorney hereby agree as follows:

1. **AGREEMENT TERM.** This Agreement shall be deemed effective for all purposes as of the **1<sup>st</sup> day of January 2024**, and shall continue thereafter through and including the **31<sup>st</sup> day of December 2025**, unless earlier terminated pursuant to the applicable terms and provisions of this Agreement.

2. **ATTORNEY'S OFFICE LOCATION.**

a. Attorney presently and regularly maintains an office adequate and appropriate for the practice of law at **1030 N. Center Parkway, Kennewick, WA 99336** . Attorney's current local office telephone and fax numbers are **(509) 619-8897 and none**, respectively; and Attorney's current office/work e-mail address is [michaelnlaw@gmail.com](mailto:michaelnlaw@gmail.com).

b. Throughout the entire term of this Agreement, Attorney shall continue to maintain (or have access to) such office, such telephone and fax numbers, and such e-

mail address; provided that, however, Attorney may relocate Attorney's office to another location within the greater Tri-Cities, Washington, and/or Attorney may change Attorney's telephone/fax number to another greater Tri-Cities local telephone/fax number, and/or Attorney may change Attorney's e-mail address, provided that Attorney must provide immediate written notice of such change(s) to the Franklin County Public Defense Manager ("PDM"), the Franklin County Superior Court Administrator ("Superior Court Administrator").

c. Regardless of the location or manner in which Attorney decides to maintain an office, throughout the entire term of this Agreement the office facility must comply with any and all applicable public defense standards adopted by the Washington Supreme Court.

3. **ATTORNEY'S QUALIFICATIONS.** Attorney acknowledges and agrees that the County have an obligation to provide competent and effective legal counsel to indigent persons subject to proceedings in the Franklin County Superior Court. Attorney shall perform all services hereunder in strict accordance with the usual skills and professional ethical standards exercised by attorneys engaged in the defense of persons accused of felony crimes in the state of Washington and generally exercised by members of the Washington State Bar Association ("WSBA") in observance of the applicable Standards for Indigent Defense as adopted by the WSBA ("Standards"). Without limitation in that regard, Attorney acknowledges and agrees that Attorney has a fundamental duty and responsibility to effectively promote and protect the best interests and rights of all persons whom Attorney is appointed to represent under this Agreement.

a. As of the date of this Agreement, Attorney represents and warrants that Attorney is unconditionally licensed to practice law within the State of Washington and meets the minimum standards for public defense as adopted by the Washington State Supreme Court and is fully qualified to handle the daily preliminary appearance docket in the Franklin County Superior Court; has not been a party to a previous personal services agreement with any governmental entity or any other entity for the provision of public indigent defense services that was terminated due to Attorney's breach or other contractual non-compliance; has not been previously employed by any governmental entity or any other entity to provide indigent defense services and had such employment terminated due to any reason relating to Attorney's job performance; has not been censured, admonished, or otherwise formally disciplined for past conduct or behavior that would negatively reflect on Attorney's duty and ability to effectively and competently render legal services hereunder; has not been suspended or disbarred from the practice of law in any state or jurisdiction at any time in the past; and does not have any bar association complaints filed and pending against him/her.

(i) This Agreement may be subject to termination in the event that Attorney's license to practice law in Washington is revoked or otherwise limited or restricted; in the event that a court of competent jurisdiction formally determines and expressly finds that Attorney has rendered ineffective assistance of counsel to any person; in the event that Attorney is censored, admonished, or otherwise formally disciplined for conduct or behavior that negatively reflects on Attorney's duty and ability to effectively and competently render legal services hereunder; or in the event that Attorney is suspended or disbarred from the practice of law in any other state or jurisdiction.

(ii) Attorney shall notify the County within five (5) business days if any event specified in paragraph 3.a.(i) above occurs or if any bar association complaint is filed against Attorney. Failure to do so shall constitute a substantial

and incurable breach of this Agreement and shall subject this Agreement, at the election of County, to immediate termination.

b. Attorney acknowledges and agrees that the County may conduct criminal history background check(s) on Attorney including any such recurring check as County may deem appropriate, in their sole discretion, even at a time after execution of this Agreement. Attorney acknowledges and agrees that this Agreement shall be deemed immediately and automatically terminated upon the County receiving a non-complying or otherwise unsatisfactory criminal history background check report.

c. Attorney represents, warrants, and certifies that Attorney has read and fully understands the requirements of RCW 13.40.570 (sexual misconduct by state employees, contractors) and all sex offense crimes included in RCW Chapter 9A.44. Attorney shall comply with any and all applicable legal and/or administrative requirements relating to the documentation/reporting of sexual misconduct.

d. During each calendar year of the term of this Agreement, Attorney shall obtain at least seven (7) hours of WSBA-qualified Continuing Legal Education ("CLE") credits in courses directly relating to Attorney's public defense practice under this Agreement. Attorney shall provide the PDM with written proof and confirmation that such CLE credits have been obtained no later than by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year. Additionally, during each calendar year during the term of this Agreement, in addition to participating in any specialized training-related activity specified in RCW 10.101.060(1)(a)(iii) or otherwise specifically required by other applicable law or court rule, Attorney shall attend at least one (1) public defense services-related training seminar sponsored and/or approved by the Washington Office of Public Defense ("OPD"), and any CLE credit earned by Attorney by attending such training seminar(s) may be applied towards the above-mentioned minimum seven (7) hours. The County may provide Attorney's name and address to the OPD for purposes of the OPD notifying Attorney of any such upcoming training seminars. Attorney shall provide the PDM with written proof and confirmation that such required training seminar has been attended by Attorney no later than by December 31<sup>st</sup> of each calendar year.

e. Attorney represents and warrants that, throughout the entire term of this Agreement, Attorney's private law practice caseload; Attorney's schedule; and Attorney's office resources, equipment, and support staff will allow Attorney to competently undertake and effectively perform all services required under this Agreement. Attorney represents and warrants that Attorney's private law practice and schedule will not interfere with Attorney's ability to timely and efficiently perform such services including, without limitation, Attorney's ability to prepare for and attend regularly scheduled trials and dockets or Attorney's ability to schedule and conduct face-to-face meetings with the persons Attorney is appointed to represent under this Agreement for purposes of discussing, preparing, and pursuing the most viable defense(s) and/or resolution available and keeping such persons reasonably apprised as to the status of their case.

f. Pursuant to RCW 10.101.050, no later than 15 calendar days after the end of each calendar year during the term of this Agreement, Attorney shall provide the PDM with a written report showing the total number and specific types of private practice cases (which for purposes of this Agreement shall include pro bono cases, retained-fee cases, and any cases handled by Attorney under any other professional/personal services agreement) in which Attorney provided legal services during the preceding year and the total number and specific types of appointed cases under this Agreement in which Attorney provided legal services during the preceding year. Additionally, in the event that

the public defense attorney caseload activity reporting requirements under RCW 10.101.050 are later amended/modified, Attorney shall correspondingly comply with any such amended/modified reporting requirements without added compensation upon written notice from the County to do so.

g. Attorney recognizes and acknowledges that Attorney is required by Washington Supreme Court Order to meet certain Supreme Court-adopted Standards for Indigent Defense ("Defense Standards") to provide quality representation to indigent criminal defendants, and to periodically file certain certifications attesting to Attorney's compliance with such Defense Standards. Attorney understands and acknowledges that Attorney's compliance with such Defense Standards and periodic certification filing requirements is a direct professional and ethical obligation between Attorney and any Court in which Attorney appears while performing services under this Agreement. Attorney further acknowledges and understands that, though Attorney's compliance with such Defense Standards and such periodic certification filing requirements is not an express term of this Agreement and therefore not subject to the County's monitoring or control, Attorney's noncompliance with such Defense Standards and/or such filing requirements would directly impair Attorney's ability to perform and fulfill Attorney's basic obligations under this Agreement. Accordingly, if the County is notified by any Court in which Attorney appears to perform services under this Agreement that Attorney has failed to comply with such Defense Standards or such periodic certification filing requirements, Attorney shall then be considered to be in substantive breach of this Agreement and this Agreement shall then become subject to potential termination under the provisions of paragraph 19.b. below.

h. Attorney understands and acknowledges that Attorney is solely and personally responsible to obtain and maintain all necessary state and local government business licenses and/or other approvals necessary to operate Attorney's private legal services business.

4. **OTHER INDIGENT DEFENSE AGREEMENTS.** On or about the date of this Agreement, the County contemplates entering into separate and independent professional services agreements with other licensed attorneys to primarily provide criminal defense services to persons accused of felony crimes in Franklin County Superior Court. Attorney agrees to fully cooperate and coordinate with such other independent contractor attorneys, the Franklin County Superior Court, the Superior Court Administrator, the PDM, and any attorneys hired and employed by the County ("Public Defenders") to provide criminal defense services to persons accused of felony crimes in Franklin County Superior Court, to establish a process to effectuate the efficient and equitable distribution of case appointments between Attorney, said other independent contractor attorneys, and said public Defenders (collectively the "Franklin County Superior Court Criminal Defense Panel"). The Superior Court Administrator and/or the PDM shall have the inherent discretion and authority to monitor and control (and reasonably modify/change) such process.

5. **CASE APPOINTMENTS.** During the term of this Agreement, Attorney agrees to, and shall, accept appointments to represent indigent persons (regardless of their race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, handicap/disability, personal background, creed, or political or religious affiliation) on any matter in Franklin County Superior Court in which publicly provided counsel is furnished or required by law. More specifically, Attorney shall accept court appointments to represent indigent persons on any of the following types of matters:

6. **NUMBER OF APPOINTMENTS.** Attorney's obligations herein are based on in-court time and not on number of cases. Therefore there shall not be any numerical limit on numbers of cases Attorney handles pursuant to this Agreement as said Attorney should not be appointed to any said case.

7. **CASE EQUIVALENTS.** Notwithstanding any particular scheme utilized in other jurisdictions or within Franklin County courts to calculate case equivalent credits for purposes of limiting or calculating caseloads assigned to public defenders, since this Agreement obligates Attorney to attend certain defined dockets and does not obligate Attorney to provide any representation to defendants after the conclusion of such dockets, not case equivalent calculation scheme shall be applicable to cases for which Attorney provides provisional representation pursuant to the Agreement.

8. **CLIENT ELIGIBILITY.** The Franklin County Superior Court (or its designee), consistent with applicable laws, rules and standards, shall determine the eligibility of any particular person for representation by Attorney under this Agreement. Attorney is under no obligation to determine a person's eligibility or continuing eligibility to receive publicly provided representation. However, if Attorney is appointed to represent a person and subsequently discovers that such person may not be eligible to receive publicly-provided representation under applicable laws, rules and standards, Attorney, if able to do so within the bounds of applicable ethical rules and professional standards, shall promptly notify the Franklin County Superior Court of such possibility for purposes of the Superior Court (or its designee) taking action at its discretion to re-determine whether such person is/remains eligible to receive publicly-provided representation. If the Franklin County Superior Court (or its designee) then determines that such person is not eligible for publicly provided representation, the appointment of Attorney to represent such person shall be rescinded and such person shall be required to retain his/her own legal counsel. Attorney shall not thereafter represent such person in such matter on a retained-fee basis unless such person applies for and receives the Franklin County Superior Court's permission allowing such representation. Nothing contained herein shall prevent Attorney from representing a person on a retained-fee basis in an action in which Attorney has not been appointed by the Franklin County Superior Court to represent such person, or from representing a person on a retained-fee basis whom Attorney has been appointed by the Franklin County Superior Court to represent provided that the matter(s) involving the retained representation are wholly independent and unrelated to the matter for which Attorney was appointed.

9. **CONFLICTS.** Notwithstanding any other terms or provisions contained in this Agreement to the contrary, Attorney shall not be required to accept, and Attorney shall decline to accept, an appointment under this Agreement if the particular appointment would create a true and bona fide conflict of interest for Attorney or would otherwise cause or constitute an actual violation of any generally recognized ethical or professional standards common and applicable to attorneys in the state of Washington. Furthermore, in the event a true and bona fide conflict of interest arises subsequent to Attorney receiving an appointment under this Agreement (or in the event Attorney's continued involvement in a pending case would cause or constitute an actual violation of any such ethical or professional standards), Attorney shall immediately make the Franklin County Superior Court aware of such development for purposes of the Superior Court taking immediate action to appoint another attorney to assume and undertake legal representation in such case.

10. **TELEPHONE CONSULTATIONS.** Attorney shall not be required to provide any telephonic consultations to defendants pursuant to the Agreement. However, any obligation pursuant to any other Agreement to provide such telephonic consultation shall not be affected by this provision or any other provision in this Agreement.



11. **TELEPHONE NUMBERS AND NOTICES.** Attorney shall provide written notice to the following-listed persons and agencies that sets forth Attorney's office telephone number or such other number(s) where Attorney may be regularly and generally contacted via telephone for purposes of this Agreement:

Larry Zeigler, Public Defense Manager  
Franklin County  
1016 N 4<sup>th</sup> Ave  
Pasco, WA 99301  
(509) 543-2996

[opd@franklincountywa.gov](mailto:opd@franklincountywa.gov)

12. **MONTHLY COMPENSATION.** Attorney's compensation for services rendered pursuant to this Agreement as an independent contractor and not as an employee, shall be **\$3,650.00 per month**, payable on the last business day of each month.

The above-stated payments to Attorney will immediately cease upon the termination of this Agreement, or for any reason prior to, the termination date specified in paragraph 1 above. For example, if this Agreement is terminated effective October 31, 2016, the above referenced monthly payments to Attorney would also terminate as of such date, and Attorney would not be entitled to receive any further monthly payments from the County; provided that, Attorney would be entitled to receive any then-owing and unpaid amounts for services rendered hereunder prior to such termination date.

Attorney further acknowledges and agrees that the above-stated compensation amount is reasonable and equitable and that such compensation shall constitute Attorney's full and exclusive compensation hereunder for all cases and matters handled by Attorney during the term of this Agreement.

13. **COSTS AND EXPENSES.**

a. Attorney acknowledges and agrees that Attorney shall not be entitled to claim or receive any reimbursement/payment from the County for any law practice-related overhead costs or expenses incurred by Attorney during the course of rendering legal services under this Agreement (including, without limitation, costs and expenses associated with Attorney's office, office staff, office equipment/facilities, and/or other office or law practice-related resources).

b. The County recognizes, however, that in certain circumstances the need may arise for Attorney to incur certain types of out-of-pocket expenses directly related to an indigent person's case such as private investigator fees, psychological or psychiatric evaluations, interpreter fees, scientific test fees, expert witness fees, and costs of out-of-area travel, meals and lodging.

(i) Attorney shall be entitled to receive reimbursement for the actual cost of such out-of-pocket expenditures or may arrange with the PDM for the service provider (e.g., private investigator, psychologist/psychiatrist, interpreter, testing lab, or expert witness) to be compensated directly by the PDM provided that, however, Attorney shall not incur any such expense (and shall not direct a service provider to incur any expenses) nor shall Attorney be entitled to be reimbursed or the service provider be compensated for any such expense unless such expense has been pre-approved by the PDM in writing pursuant to



preapproval process established by the PDM and promulgated by written policy. Such preauthorization will state and provide a specific dollar amount for the requested and authorized expenditure; provided that, in the event it is not reasonably possible to state and provide a specific dollar amount for a particular requested expenditure, such pre-authorization may nevertheless provide authorization for the expenditure but shall establish and set forth a maximum dollar expenditure amount. In regard to any reimbursement to Attorney for any PDM-approved expenditures and costs pertaining to case-related travel, meals, and lodging, any reimbursement to Attorney for such expenditures and costs shall not exceed the locally adjusted amounts that are established and published by the Federal General Services Administration.

(ii) In addition to any other prerequisites imposed by court rules, procedures, or standards, as a precondition to Attorney being eligible to be reimbursed or a service provider being eligible to be compensated for an expenditure under paragraph 14.b., either Attorney or service provider shall be required to submit a claim for reimbursement/compensation to the PDM that identifies the specific expenditure(s) for which reimbursement is sought (exercising appropriate discretion to protect client confidentiality given that such claims are matters of public record unless sealed by the court at Attorney's request) and that has attached thereto a copy of the pre-authorization that specifically pre-approved and authorized such expenditure(s) (unless sealed by the court at Attorney's request) together with attached copies of all written payment receipts relating to such incurred expenditure(s) (unless sealed by the court at Attorney's request). Attorney's administrative time expended to prepare, submit, and process claims shall not be billable to the County. All payment vouchers and requests for reimbursement under this paragraph shall be subject to the PDM's review and final approval for payment. Attorney shall submit such claims for compensation to the PDM within sixty (60) days of Attorney incurring the expense(s) for which reimbursement is sought, and the County shall have the right to deny payment of any claim that is not timely submitted within said requisite sixty (60) day period.

14. **INDEMNIFICATION AND HOLD HARMLESS.** Attorney agrees to and shall fully indemnify and hold fully harmless the County and its elected/appointed representatives, officers, employees, and agents from and for any and all losses, damages, costs, charges, claims, demands, suits, or actions of whatsoever nature directly or indirectly arising out of or by reason of Attorney's (or any person, employee, agent, contractor, or entity acting for or on behalf of Attorney or at Attorney's request or direction) acts, defaults, errors and/or omissions of whatsoever nature in the performance of legal services to any person under this Agreement. In the event any suit or legal proceeding is brought against the County or any of its elected/appointed representatives, officers, employees or agents at any time on account of or by reason of any such acts, defaults, errors and/or omissions, Attorney hereby covenants and agrees to assume the defense thereof (through counsel acceptable to the County) and to defend the same at Attorney's sole cost and expense and to pay any and all costs, charges, attorneys' fees, and other expenses as well as any and all judgments or awards that may be incurred by or entered against the County or any of its elected/appointed representatives, officers, employees or agents in such suits or other legal proceedings. Without limiting the intended broad scope and application of the indemnification and hold harmless provisions of this paragraph, for purposes of this paragraph, Attorney waives, with respect to the County only, any immunity that would otherwise be available to Attorney under the Industrial Insurance Act provisions of Title 51 RCW or any other similar workers/employee disability or benefit law. The indemnification and hold harmless provisions of this paragraph shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement.

15. **INSURANCE.**

a. Attorney shall secure and maintain, at Attorney's sole cost and expense, a policy of Professional Liability Insurance in an amount of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per claim nor less than \$1,000,000.00 in the aggregate during the policy term and with a maximum deductible of not more than \$10,000.00.

(i) Said policy shall include coverage as an additional insured for any other person(s) or attorney(s) acting for or on behalf of Attorney in the performance of this Agreement; shall provide professional liability insurance coverage for any acts, errors and/or omissions by Attorney (and/or such additional insured) during the course of performing legal services under this Agreement; shall require that the insurance company provide the County with no less than thirty (30) days prior written notice in the event the policy is cancelled or materially altered; shall comply with all applicable state of Washington insurance requirements; and shall be issued by an insurance company rated A- or better by A.M. Best authorized to conduct business and issue insurance in the state of Washington.

(ii) Attorney shall continuously maintain the professional liability insurance coverage required by this paragraph 17.a. throughout the entire term of this Agreement, throughout any other longer time period during which Attorney is obligated to continue performing services and duties hereunder, and for a period of no less than thirty-six (36) consecutive months after Attorney has fully completed all services and duties required hereunder.

b. Attorney shall also obtain and maintain, at Attorney's sole cost and expense, a policy of Commercial General Liability Insurance (including Endorsement Form CG2011 or direct equivalent insurance additional insured endorsement form including Contractual Liability coverage) in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000.00 per occurrence nor less than \$2,000,000.00 in the aggregate during the policy term. Additionally, if Attorney is an employer, Attorney shall obtain and maintain, at Attorney's sole cost and expense, a policy of Statutory Workers Compensation and Employers Liability/Stop Gap insurance in the amount of not less than \$1,000,000.00.

(i) The policy of Commercial General Liability shall be written on an occurrence basis; shall name the County, The Franklin County Superior Court, and their elected/appointed representatives, officers, employees and agents as additional insureds; shall be primary coverage for both defense and indemnity and non-contributory with any insurance coverage maintained by the County; and shall provide for waiver of subrogation rights as to the County.

(ii) The insurance policies required by this paragraph 17.b. shall require that the insurance company provide the County with no less than thirty (30) days prior written notice in the event the policy is cancelled or materially altered; shall comply with all applicable state of Washington insurance requirements; and shall be issued by an insurance company rated A- or better by A.M. Best authorized to conduct business and issue insurance in the state of Washington.

(iii) Attorney shall continuously maintain the insurance coverage required by this paragraph 17.b. throughout the entire term of this Agreement and throughout any other longer time period during which Attorney is obligated to continue performing services and duties hereunder.

c. Contemporaneously with Attorney's execution of this Agreement, Attorney

shall provide the County with copies or certificates of the insurance policies and coverage (including any endorsements) required under this paragraph 17, and Attorney shall annually provide the County with the same type of documented proof and confirmation that such insurance policies and coverage continue to exist no later than thirty (30) days after the policies' annual renewal dates(s).

16. **COMPLAINTS: PERFORMANCE MONITORING.** In the event that the PDM, another employee/representative of the County's Office of Public Defense, or the Franklin County Superior Court receives an oral/written communication from a person represented by Attorney under this Agreement that in substance asserts an unresolved complaint about the legal services rendered to such person by Attorney and is not readily subject to resolution simply by facilitating communication between the Attorney and the client, a written, dated, and signed statement shall be obtained from the complainant describing and detailing the relevant facts and circumstances underlying and alleged in the complaint, copies of which shall promptly be the PDM.

a. Upon receiving such complaint, the PDM, without limitation to any other action the County may deem necessary/appropriate to pursue under this Agreement, shall immediately forward a copy of the complaint to Attorney and request and obtain Attorney's written, dated, and signed response thereto (which Attorney shall prepare and provide to the PDM within five (5) business days). The PDM shall review the complaint and Attorney's response and take any action deemed necessary with Attorney and/or the represented person to address and resolve the complaint, and the disposition of the complaint shall be communicated to the represented person as soon as reasonably possible. The PDM then may follow-up with the Franklin County Superior Court to confirm or advise that the complaint has been, or is in the process of being, addressed and disposed of. This stated procedure does not interfere with or otherwise impair the Franklin County Superior Court's ability and/or duty to monitor the performance of attorneys appearing before the court.

b. Additionally, during the term of this Agreement, in order to help ensure that indigent persons are consistently provided effective legal representation, and without limitation to any other means or methods of performance monitoring/evaluation the County may deem necessary/appropriate, Attorney acknowledges that the County and/or the PDM have the right to periodically ask, without limitation, the Franklin County Superior Court and/or the Superior Court Administrator and/or other attorneys and/or persons previously represented by Attorney to provide the County with an evaluation/assessment of the quality and effectiveness of Attorney's performance of legal services and related duties and obligations under this Agreement, provided that such inquiry shall not be made of any person represented, absent a complaint from such person, during the course of representation.

17. **TERMINATION.**

a. In addition to any other automatic or discretionary termination provisions set forth in this Agreement, this Agreement shall automatically terminate in the event that Attorney is suspended/disbarred from the practice of law in Washington, effective without notice as of the date of suspension/disbarment. In such event, Attorney shall be liable up to \$5,000.00 for any additional costs or expenses incurred by the County and/or the Franklin County Superior Court relating to the appointment of substitute legal counsel for any person(s) whom Attorney was appointed to represent hereunder; and the County shall be entitled and authorized to set off and deduct any such additional costs or expenses from any unpaid compensation owing to Attorney hereunder.

Further, in the event that the Franklin County Superior Court enters an order that prohibits or disqualifies Attorney from receiving any further appointments hereunder for any reason whatsoever, this Agreement shall automatically terminate without further notice as of the date such order is entered by the court. In the event that the court enters such an order because of unethical/unprofessional conduct by Attorney and/or because of Attorney's breach of this Agreement and the court determines at that time that the circumstances justify or require a substitution of appointed counsel for any person(s) whom Attorney was appointed to represent hereunder, Attorney shall be liable up to \$5,000.00 for any additional costs or expenses incurred by the County and/or the Franklin County Superior Court relating to such substitute appointment(s); and the County shall be entitled and authorized to set off and deduct any such additional costs or expenses from any unpaid compensation owing to Attorney hereunder.

b. In addition to the above-referenced automatic termination provisions, the County may elect to terminate this Agreement in the event Attorney fails for whatever reason to comply with any provision of this Agreement after giving Attorney ten (10) business days advance written notice to cure, which notice shall specify the reason(s) for the notice, the act(s) necessary to cure Attorney's failure(s), and the consequence if the failure(s) is/are not cured within the ten (10) day period (i.e., termination without further notice or potential termination upon further notice). The County's right to terminate this Agreement in such regard shall be in addition to any other rights and remedies available to the County.

c. In addition to the foregoing provisions regarding termination, either party may elect to terminate this Agreement with or without cause or reason by providing the other party with sixty (60) days advance written notice of such election. Attorney shall continue to receive case appointments during said sixty (60) day notice period and shall have continued responsibility for those appointed cases pursuant to paragraph 6 above. A sixty (60) day notice of termination given by either party under this paragraph 18.c. shall be fully and immediately effective when received by the recipient party pursuant to the provisions of below paragraph 31 (notwithstanding the inclusion of any contrary terms or language in the notice) without any need for formal or informal acceptance or any other response by the recipient party, and such notice may not thereafter be rescinded/revoked by the party giving such notice unless such rescission/revocation is expressly acknowledged and agreed to by the recipient party in writing in the recipient party's sole discretion.

d. In any event, regardless of the manner in which this Agreement is terminated, Attorney acknowledges and agrees that Attorney shall not be entitled to receive any further compensation from the County in the event this Agreement is terminated; provided that, Attorney shall be entitled to be paid for any unpaid compensation duly earned by Attorney under this Agreement up to the date of termination. Additionally, the termination of this Agreement, regardless of the manner of termination, shall not relieve Attorney from the obligation and duty to continue representing all persons whom Attorney was appointed to represent prior to the termination unless Attorney is expressly barred or prohibited from doing so by court order and/or the suspension/disbarment of Attorney from the practice of law in Washington.

e. If the County decides in its discretion to provide indigent defense representation in the Franklin Superior Court through a County agency (such as an Office of Public Defense or a similar entity) that would reduce or fully eliminate the need for continuing this Agreement with Attorney, the County will notify Attorney of the County's intentions in that regard as soon as reasonably practicable so the County and the Attorney

can coordinate and pursue an appropriate transition. Upon receipt of such notice from the County, Attorney may apply to the County for available staff-attorney employment positions in such agency in accordance with the County's then-existing hiring and employment practices and policies; though Attorney understands and acknowledges that the hiring of Attorney to fill any such positions would not be automatic nor in any way guaranteed.

18. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.** Attorney fully understands, acknowledges, and agrees that Attorney shall not be an agent, representative, or employee of the County or the Franklin County Superior Court for any type of purpose or situation whatsoever (including, without limitation, for purposes of any type of wage, hours/overtime, workers/industrial insurance compensation, unemployment, fair labor, and/or employee benefit/leave laws, disability act coverage or rules, and/or regulations) and that Attorney, as of the date of this Agreement and throughout its entire term, is and will always be acting and operating as a fully independent contractor. In that regard, strictly subject to Attorney's duties, responsibilities and obligations imposed under this Agreement, Attorney shall have sole and absolute discretion using Attorney's best professional legal judgment to determine the manner and means of providing the legal representation services required under this Agreement; and neither the County, the County's PDM, nor the Franklin County Superior Court shall have any authority or duty to directly control the actual performance of Attorney's professional services hereunder.

19. **NON-ASSIGNMENT AND TEMPORARY SUBSTITUTIONS.** Except as otherwise expressly provided in paragraphs 20.a. and 20.b. below, Attorney shall not allow or arrange for any other person to perform any of the services required by this Agreement, nor shall Attorney assign, subcontract out, or otherwise delegate any of Attorney's rights, responsibilities, or obligations under this Agreement outside of what has previously been discussed and agreed upon with PDM to wit:

a. Attorney and any of the other Franklin County Criminal Defense Panel members may mutually agree to make temporary, substitute appearances for each other on routine docket matters and routine court hearings on an as-needed basis as approved by the court and by the person being represented (if that person has previously discussed the case with his/her appointed attorney). Any compensation or consideration (if any) to be paid or given by Attorney to the other Franklin County Criminal Defense Panel members for such substitution(s) shall be a matter of direct negotiation and agreement between Attorney and said other panel members, and said other members shall not be entitled to receive any additional compensation from the County for such substitution(s).

b. In the event Attorney needs or desires to take up to a maximum of four (4) consecutive weeks (or such longer requested period of time as may be expressly pre-approved in writing by the PDM on a case-by-case basis, in his/her sole and absolute discretion) leave of absence from the practice of law and/or the requirements of representation under this agreement during the term of this Agreement and is unable to obtain the assistance of the other Franklin County Criminal Defense Panel members during such temporary absence, Attorney may seek and obtain the assistance of another Washington-licensed attorney to make temporary, substitute appearances for Attorney during such absence on routine docket matters and routine court hearings on an as-needed basis provided that Attorney and such other attorney jointly prepare, sign and file a written certification with the court (with a copy to be provided to the Superior Court Administrator and the PDM) in all such matters and hearings that expressly certifies that such other attorney has reviewed this Agreement and fully meets all criteria, qualifications, and requirements under this Agreement to render legal services to indigent persons and provided further that such temporary substitution is expressly authorized on the court

record by the court and the particular person(s) being represented by Attorney who is/are affected by such substitution of legal counsel.

(i) Any compensation or consideration (if any) to be paid or given by Attorney to such other attorney for such substitution(s) shall be a matter of direct negotiation and agreement between Attorney and such other attorney, and such other attorney shall not be entitled to receive any compensation from the County for such substitution(s).

(ii) Unless called to active military duty, Attorney shall be responsible to ensure that such other attorney fully complies with all terms and conditions of this Agreement during such temporary absence period (including, without limitation, the requirement to maintain the insurance coverage specified in paragraph 16 above), and Attorney shall be liable for any damages or losses sustained as a result of such other attorney's non-compliance with the terms and conditions of this Agreement.

c. In the event Attorney is called up for active military duty or for direct civilian support of active military operations, Attorney shall provide the PDM with written notice of such event within five (5) business days of Attorney being called up so that the PDM and Attorney can coordinate and arrange for an appropriate substitute attorney to handle Attorney's duties under this Agreement while Attorney is on military leave and any reasonable back-to-civilian-life transition time that may be requested by Attorney upon return. Conditioned upon Attorney complying with said notice and cooperation requirements, Attorney shall be entitled to resume contract duties hereunder upon written request to the PDM within a reasonable time after return from active service, but Attorney shall receive no compensation under this Agreement while on leave or during any such transition time.

20. **VACANCY AND REPLACEMENT.** In the event this Agreement is terminated by either party prior to the termination date specified in section 1 above, the County may initiate, implement and pursue any actions or process deemed appropriate/necessary to seek, select, and contract with another qualified attorney to replace and succeed Attorney in representing indigent persons in Franklin County Superior Court.

21. **OTHER APPOINTMENTS.** Attorney shall not enter into any contract/arrangement to perform prosecution services in any court or jurisdiction. Subject to, and without limiting/waiving, Attorney's duties and obligations under this Agreement, Attorney may enter into a part-time contract/arrangement to receive public defense appointments in another court or jurisdiction, provided that, and on the indispensable condition that, Attorney's duties and obligations under said part-time contract/arrangement will not conflict with or interfere with Attorney's ability to timely and effectively perform Attorney's duties and obligations under this Agreement.

22. **TEMPORARY JUDICIAL SERVICE.** Subject to, and without limiting/waiving, Attorney's duties and obligations under this Agreement, Attorney may temporarily serve as a judge pro tem in any capacity and under any circumstances except on any criminal cases pending before the Franklin County Superior Court, provided that, and on the indispensable condition that, it would not conflict with or interfere with Attorney's ability to timely and effectively perform Attorney's duties and obligations under this Agreement. Any potential exceptions to the foregoing limitation on Attorney serving as a judge pro tem would be strictly on a case-by-case basis and would be strictly subject to Attorney obtaining the PDM's prior express approval and authorization, which decision shall be decided on a case-by-case basis in the PDM's sole and absolute

discretion.

23. **ENTIRE AGREEMENT.** This Agreement constitutes the entire integrated agreement and understanding of the undersigned parties. No amendment, modification or other type of change to this Agreement shall be valid or enforceable unless reduced to writing and signed by the parties.

24. **CAPTIONS; TIME COMPUTATION.**

a. The captions and headings herein are for convenience only and shall not be relied upon or used to interpret or construe this Agreement or any portion thereof.

b. Unless otherwise expressly specified herein, any period of time specified in this Agreement shall expire at 5:00 p.m. (PST) of the last calendar day of the specified period of time, unless the last day is Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, as prescribed in RCW 1.16.050, in which event the specified period of time shall expire at 5:00 p.m. (PST) of the next business day. Unless otherwise expressly specified herein as being business days only, any period of time specified in this Agreement shall mean and be calculated to include calendar days.

25. **GOVERNING LAW.** This Agreement shall be exclusively construed under and interpreted consistent with the laws of the state of Washington.

26. **BINDING EFFECT.** Strictly subject to the above restrictions against assignment, subcontracting, or delegation, this Agreement shall be binding upon Attorney's heirs, legal/personal representatives, successors, and assigns.

27. **SEVERABILITY.** In the event that any one or more provisions contained in this Agreement shall, for whatever reason, be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision(s) shall not affect any other provision hereof, and this Agreement shall nevertheless be construed and enforced as if such invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision(s) were not contained herein.

28. **NON-WAIVER.** A party's express or implied consent to or waiver of any breach or default by the other party in the performance of such other party's obligations hereunder shall not be deemed or construed to be a consent to or waiver of any other breach or default in the performance by such other party of the same obligations or any other obligation(s) of such other party hereunder.

29. **DISPUTE RESOLUTION.**

a. The parties hereby specifically waive, release, and irrevocably relinquish any and all right to file a court lawsuit of any type to address any claims or dispute between the parties involving the performance or interpretation of this Agreement or that in any other way relate to, or arise from, this Agreement, and regardless of whether money damages, equitable relief, or any other type of relief is being sought. Provided, however, if necessary due to a party's disregard of and failure to abide by the non-judicial Dispute Resolution provisions contained in this paragraph 30, the other party may pursue court action to seek and obtain an order compelling and enforcing such Dispute Resolution provisions, and as part of such action and court order, the court shall order the party not complying with the requirements of such Dispute Resolution provisions to pay the other party's incurred attorney fees and costs.

b. Accordingly, in furtherance of the parties' above-stated agreement to



submit any and all claims and disputes to non-judicial resolution, in the event any type of dispute arises between the parties involving the performance or interpretation of this Agreement, or that in any other way relates to, or arises from, this Agreement, either party may then make written demand on the other party to submit the dispute to mediation through the assistance of an experienced mediator chosen by mutual agreement of the parties who must be a Washington-licensed attorney experienced in contract disputes. The mediation shall occur within thirty (30) days of the mediation demand, unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. The County shall pay one-half of the mediator's fees and expenses, and Attorney shall pay the other one-half of such fees and expenses.

c. In the event that mediation proves unsuccessful in resolving the dispute, the parties shall submit the dispute for resolution via binding arbitration pursuant to RCW Chapter 7.04A. A single arbitrator (who must be a Washington-licensed attorney experienced in contract disputes) shall be selected by agreement of the parties or, in the absence of agreement, each party shall select one (1) arbitrator (who must be a Washington-licensed attorney experienced in contract disputes) and those two (2) so selected arbitrators shall mutually select a third arbitrator (who must be a Washington-licensed attorney experienced in contract disputes). The County shall pay one-half of the fees and expenses of the arbitrator(s), and Attorney shall pay the other one-half of such fees and expenses. The provisions of RCW Chapter 7.04A and applicable Mandatory Arbitration Rules as adopted and implemented in Superior Court shall be binding as to procedure, except as to the right of appeal, which shall not be applicable. Within ten (10) business days after the unsuccessful mediation session, the arbitrator(s) shall be selected and designated, and the hearing shall be held within thirty (30) business days after designation of the arbitrator(s), unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. The arbitrator(s) shall render a written decision and award within ten (10) business days of such hearing. Without limitation, the arbitrator(s) may award damages, specific performance, and/or injunctive relief, and may register a judgment in Benton County Superior Court, including judgment by default. The most prevailing party shall be entitled to recover such party's reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses from the other party as a part of the arbitration decision and award. In the event of suit or action to enforce an arbitration award, venue shall lie exclusively in Franklin County Superior Court, and the most prevailing party in such suit or action shall be entitled to recover such party's reasonable attorneys' fees, costs and expenses from the other party.

### 30. **NOTICES.**

a. Any notices required or permitted to be given by Attorney to the County under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be either personally delivered to the County's PDM at his below-stated office address; mailed to the County's PDM at his below-stated office address via certified U.S. mail, postage prepaid; or emailed to the County's PDM at the below-stated official email address for notices:

Larry W. Zeigler, Public Defense Manager  
Franklin Office of Public Defense  
1016 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Pasco, WA 99301

[OPD@co.franklin.wa.us](mailto:OPD@co.franklin.wa.us)

b. Any notices required or permitted to be given by the County to Attorney under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be either personally delivered to Attorney at his/her below-stated business address; mailed to Attorney at his/her business address


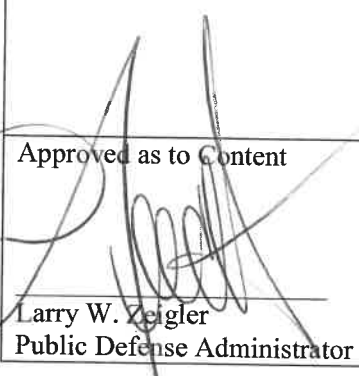
set forth in paragraph 2.a above, via certified U.S. mail, postage prepaid; or emailed to Attorney at his/her business email address set forth in paragraph 2.a.

c. Any such notices under this Agreement shall be deemed to have been duly given, made, and received when either personally delivered to the notice recipient in the manner described above; when duly deposited in the U.S. mail addressed to the recipient in the manner described above; or when emailed to the recipient in the manner described above. A party may change the address(es) to which notices are to be sent by giving notice of such change of address(es) in conformity with the above provisions of this paragraph for the giving of notice.

31. **LEGAL COMPLIANCE.** Attorney agrees to and shall strictly follow and comply with any and all federal, state, local, and administrative laws, rules, and regulations applicable to Attorney's pursuit and performance of activities under this Agreement. Without limitation in that regard, Attorney shall timely and fully pay all applicable taxes, fees, licenses, and other payments required by law; and Attorney shall fully comply with any and all anti-discrimination laws and policies including, without limitation, the County's policy that no person will be subjected to discrimination by the County or their contractors based on race, color, national origin, age, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, handicap/disability, personal background, creed, or political or religious affiliation.

32. **PUBLIC DEFENSE MANAGER.** Attorney acknowledges that the County has employed a Public Defense Manager ("PDM") to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the performances and compliance of independent contractor attorneys (like Attorney) under indigent defense agreements with the County. Attorney further acknowledges that the County has the right and discretion to direct the PDM to assume and fulfill various roles and functions under this Agreement. Though the PDM will not have or attempt to exercise direct control over the manner and means in which Attorney provides legal services under this Agreement, Attorney agrees to reasonably cooperate and promptly comply with reasonable requests from the PDM to allow for the effective monitoring and evaluation of Attorney's performance under and in compliance with this Agreement.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the parties hereto have entered into and executed this Agreement on the date set forth below.

 _____ Michael Anthoni Nguyen WSBA #58008	<u>11/16/2023</u> _____ Date	 _____ Chair  _____ Chair Pro Tem  _____ Member	 _____ Date
 _____ Larry W. Zeigler Public Defense Administrator	<u>11/16/23</u> _____ Date	Constituting the Board of Commissioners for Franklin County, WA	