

Purchasing

7/25/12

**CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
BETWEEN
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER
AND
DECOTIIS, FITZPATRICK & COLE, LLP**

THIS CONTRACT is made effective the 8th day of Aug., 2012, by and between the **COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**, a body politic and corporate, with offices in Woodbury, New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as "**County**", and **DeCotiis, Fitzpatrick & Cole, LLP**, with offices at Glenpointe Centre West, 500 Frank W. Burr Blvd., Suite 31, Teaneck, NJ 07666, hereinafter referred to as "**Attorney**".

RECITALS

WHEREAS, there exists a need by the County of Gloucester for professional services for the provision of Tax Attorney services for Large Scale & Complex Facilities in connection with Gloucester County Tax Appeals for municipalities within the County, as more particularly set forth in **RFP-012-032**; and

WHEREAS, this contract is awarded pursuant to and consistent with Gloucester County's fair and open procurement process and the terms and provisions of **N.J.S.A. 19:44A-20.4**; and

WHEREAS, Attorney represents that it is qualified to perform said services and desires to so perform pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Contract.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises, agreements and other considerations made by and between the parties, the County and the Attorney do hereby agree as follows:

TERMS OF AGREEMENT

1. **TERM.** The term of the contract shall be for the period beginning July 11, 2012 and concluding July 10, 2013.
2. **COMPENSATION AND BILLING.**
 - A. Contract shall be for estimated units of service, with the minimum contract amount of Zero and a maximum contract amount of \$150,000.00. Attorney shall be paid an hourly rate of \$175.00 (Attorney) and \$150.00/hr. (Non-Equity Partner) for all such services.
 - B. It is agreed and understood that this is an open-ended contract, thereby requiring the County to use Attorney's services only on an as-needed basis. There is no obligation on the part of the County to make any purchase whatsoever.
 - C. Attorney shall be paid in accordance with this Contract document upon receipt of

an invoice and a properly executed voucher. After approval by County, the payment voucher shall be placed in line for prompt payment.

D. Each invoice shall contain an itemized, detailed description of all work performed during the billing period. Failure to provide sufficient specificity shall be cause for rejection of the invoice until the necessary details are provided.

It is also agreed and understood that the acceptance of the final payment by Attorney shall be considered a release in full of all claims against the County arising out of, or by reason of, the work done and materials furnished under this Contract.

E. Attorneys shall submit detailed billings on a monthly basis. The bill submitted should indicate the following:

- a. Date of Service
- b. Name of attorney providing service
- c. Amount of time spent on service
- d. Detailed description of the service provided

Attorneys shall not bill for travel time unless specifically authorized by the County. Billing for travel time shall not be at the attorney's normal rate of pay.

F. In house conferences between two or more attorneys of the same firm shall be limited to reasonably necessary time of conference. Billing for in-house conferences shall be for the time of one attorney only.

G. The County shall not be billed for the initial review by a newly assigned attorney in the firm prior to beginning to work on the file.

H. For attendance at meetings, if two attorneys from the same firm attend, the County should only be billed for one attorney's attendance (unless the County specifically requests more than one attorney to attend these meetings).

I. All bills of service are subject to review by the County for reasonableness.

3. **DUTIES OF ATTORNEY.** Services shall include, but not be limited to: (a) On an as-needed basis prepares, reviews and opinions on tax-related projects; (b) Assists in reviews and updates of official statements associated with all tax matters; (c) Perform all tasks related to assigned tax appeals at Tax Court, including investigation, discovery, court appearance, pleadings preparation, etc.; (d) Provide legal advice and assistance to the governing body, the Office of County Counsel, and the County Office of Assessment; (e) Perform all other tasks as required by the County Office of Assessment; (f) Attend meetings of the Board of Chosen Freeholders when requested; and (g) Counsel may also be called upon to provide other types of legal services of a specialized nature; and other specified duties as set forth in the County's RFP-012-032 and Attorney's responsive proposal dated May 14, 2012, which are incorporated in their entirety and made a part of this Contract by reference. Should there occur a conflict between this form of contract and RFP-012-032, this contract shall prevail.

Attorney agrees that it has or will comply with, and where applicable shall continue throughout the period of this Contract to comply with, all of the requirements of the RFP documents.

4. **FURTHER OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES.** During the performance of this Contract, the parties agree as follows, where applicable:

A. Attorney will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of gender, age, race, creed, color, religion, Vietnam-era veteran status, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex or atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait. Attorney will take affirmative action to ensure that such applicants are recruited and employed, and that employees are treated during employment without regard to their gender, age, race, creed, color, religion, Vietnam-era veteran status, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex or atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait. Such actions shall include, but not be limited to the following: employment, upgrading, demotion, or transfer; recruitment or recruitment advertising; layoff or termination; rates of pay or other forms of compensation; and selection for training, including apprenticeship. Attorney agrees to post in conspicuous places, available to employees and applicants for employment, notices to be provided by the Public Agency Compliance Officer setting forth provisions of this non-discrimination clause.

B. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, will, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Attorney, state that all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to gender, age, race, creed, color, religion, Vietnam-era veteran status, national origin, ancestry, marital status, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, genetic information, sex or atypical hereditary cellular or blood trait.

C. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, will send to each labor union or representative or workers with which it has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding, a notice, to be provided by the Agency Contracting Officer advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Attorney's commitments under this act and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

D. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, c.127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

E. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to attempt in good faith to employ minority and female workers consistent with the applicable County employment goals prescribed by N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time or in accordance with a binding determination of the applicable County employment goals determined by Affirmative Action Office pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2 promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to P.L. 1975, C. 127, as amended and supplemented from time to time.

F. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to inform in writing appropriate recruitment agencies in the area, including employment agencies, placement bureaus,

colleges, universities, labor unions, that it does not discriminate on the basis of gender, age, creed, color, religion, Vietnam-era veteran status, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or disability and that it will discontinue the use of any recruitment agency which engages in direct or indirect discriminatory practices.

G. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to revise any of its testing procedures, if necessary, to assure that all personnel testing conforms with the principles of job-related testing, as established by the statutes and court decision of the State of New Jersey and as established by applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

H. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to review all procedures relating to transfer, upgrading, downgrading and layoff to ensure that all such actions are taken without regard to gender, age, creed, color, religion, Vietnam-era veteran status, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, or disability and conform with the applicable employment goals, consistent with the statutes and court decisions of the State of New Jersey and applicable Federal law and applicable Federal court decisions.

I. The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall furnish such report or other document to the Affirmative Action Office as may be requested by the office from time to time in order to carry out the purposes of these regulations, and public agencies shall furnish such information as may be requested by the Affirmative Action Office for conducting a compliance investigation pursuant to Subchapter 10 of the Administrative Code (N.J.A.C. 17:27).

J. Only manufactured products of the United States of America, wherever available, shall be used in the execution of the work specified herein.

K. In accordance with the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982 (TEFRA), it is expressly understood that if the net amount paid to Attorney pursuant to this Contract exceeds Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in a twelve-month period, Attorney will grant to the Department of Health and Human Services and/or the general Accounting Office access to such of Attorney's books, documents, and records as are necessary to verify the nature and extent of costs of services furnished under this Contract. Attorney agrees to grant such access until the expiration of four (4) years after the services are furnished under the contract. In the event that Attorney carries out any duties of the contract through a subcontract with a related organization which will result in payment to the related organization of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) or more over a twelve-month period, Attorney agrees that any such subcontract shall require that the related organization shall make available such books, documents, and records which are necessary to verify the nature and extent of the costs.

5. **LICENSING AND PERMITTING.** If the Attorney or any of its agents is required to maintain a license, or to maintain in force and effect any permits issued by any governmental or quasi-governmental entity in order to perform the services which are the subject of this Contract, then prior to the effective date of this Contract, and as a condition precedent to its taking effect, Attorney shall provide to County a copy of its current license and permits required to operate in the State of New Jersey, which license and permits shall be in good standing and shall not be subject to any current action to revoke or suspend, and shall remain so throughout the term of this Contract.

Attorney shall notify County immediately in the event of suspension, revocation or any change in status (or in the event of the initiation of any action to accomplish such suspension, revocation and/or change in status) of license or certification held by Attorney or its agents.

6. **TERMINATION.** This Contract may be terminated as follows:

A. Pursuant to the termination provisions set forth in the RFP-012-020, where is specifically referred to and incorporated herein by reference.

B. If Attorney is required to be licensed in order to perform the services which are the subject of this Contract, then this Contract may be terminated by County in the event that the appropriate governmental entity with jurisdiction has instituted an action to have the Attorney's license suspended, or in the event that such entity has revoked or suspended said license. Notice of termination pursuant to this subparagraph shall be effective immediately upon the giving of said notice.

C. If, through any cause, the Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall fail to fulfill in timely and proper manner his obligations under this Contract, or if the Attorney shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Contract, the County shall thereupon have the right to terminate this Contract by giving written notice to the Attorney of such termination and specifying the effective date thereof. In such event, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, and reports prepared by the Attorney under this Contract, shall be forthwith delivered to the County.

D. The County may terminate this Contract for public convenience at any time by a notice in writing from the County to the Attorney. If the Contract is terminated by the County as provided herein, the Attorney will be paid for the services rendered to the time of termination.

E. Notwithstanding the above, the Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall not be relieved of liability to the County for damages sustained by the County by virtue of any breach of the Contract by the Attorney, and the County may withhold any payments to the Attorney for the purpose of set off until such time as the exact amount of damages due the County from the Attorney is determined.

F. Termination shall not operate to affect the validity of the indemnification provisions of this Contract, nor to prevent the County from pursuing any other relief or damages to which it may be entitled, either at law or in equity.

7. **PROPERTY OF THE COUNTY.** All materials developed, prepared, completed, or acquired by Attorney during the performance of the services specified by this Contract, including, but not limited to, all finished or unfinished documents, data, studies, surveys, drawings, maps, models, photographs, and reports, shall become the property of the County, except as may otherwise be stipulated in a written statement by the County.

8. **NO ASSIGNMENT OR SUBCONTRACT.** This Contract may not be assigned nor subcontracted by the Attorney, except as otherwise agreed in writing by both parties. Any attempted assignment or subcontract without such written consent shall be void with respect to

the County and no obligation on the County's part to the assignee shall arise, unless the County shall elect to accept and to consent to such assignment or subcontract.

9. **INDEMNIFICATION.** The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, shall be responsible for, shall keep, save and hold the County of Gloucester harmless from, shall indemnify and shall defend the County of Gloucester against any claim, loss, liability, expense (specifically including but not limited to costs, counsel fees and/or experts' fees), or damage resulting from all mental or physical injuries or disabilities, including death, to employees or recipients of the Attorney's services or to any other persons, or from any damage to any property sustained in connection with this contract which results from any acts or omissions, including negligence or malpractice, of any of its officers, directors, employees, agents, servants or independent contractors, or from the Attorney's failure to provide for the safety and protection of its employees, or from Attorney's performance or failure to perform pursuant to the terms and provisions of this Contract. The Attorney's liability under this agreement shall continue after the termination of this agreement with respect to any liability, loss, expense or damage resulting from acts occurring prior to termination.

10. **INSURANCE.** Attorney shall, if applicable to the services to be provided, maintain general liability, Attorney's malpractice insurance, automobile liability, business operations, builder's insurance, and Workers' Compensation insurance in amounts, for the coverages, and with companies deemed satisfactory by County, and which shall be in compliance with any applicable requirements of the State of New Jersey. Attorney shall, simultaneously with the execution of this Contract, deliver certifications of said insurance to County, naming County as an additional insured.

If Attorney is a member of a profession that is subject to suit for professional malpractice, then Attorney shall maintain and continue in full force and effect an insurance policy for professional liability/malpractice with limits of liability acceptable to the County. Attorney shall, simultaneously with the execution of this Contract, and as a condition precedent to its taking effect, provide to County a copy of a certificate of insurance, verifying that said insurance is and will be in effect during the term of this Contract. The County shall review the certificate for sufficiency and compliance with this paragraph, and approval of said certificate and policy shall be necessary prior to this Contract taking effect. Attorney also hereby agrees to continue said policy in force and effect for the period of the applicable statute of limitations following the termination of this Contract and shall provide the County with copies of certificates of insurance as the certificates may be renewed during that period of time.

11. **SET-OFF.** Should Attorney either refuse or neglect to perform the service that Attorney is required to perform in accordance with the terms of this Contract, and if expense is incurred by County by reason of Attorney's failure to perform, then and in that event, such expense shall be deducted from any payment due to Attorney. Exercise of such set-off shall not operate to prevent County from pursuing any other remedy to which it may be entitled.

12. **PREVENTION OF PERFORMANCE BY COUNTY.** In the event that the County is prevented from performing this Contract by circumstances beyond its control, then any obligations owing by the County to the Attorney shall be suspended without liability for the period during which the County is so prevented.

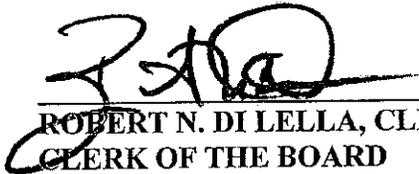
13. **METHODS OF WORK.** Attorney agrees that in performing its work, it shall employ such methods or means as will not cause any interruption or interference with the operations of County or infringe on the rights of the public.
14. **NON-WAIVER.** The failure by the County to enforce any particular provision of this Contract, or to act upon a breach of this Contract by Attorney, shall not operate as or be construed as a waiver of any subsequent breach, nor a bar to any subsequent enforcement.
15. **PARTIAL INVALIDITY.** In the event that any provision of this Contract shall be or become invalid under any law or applicable regulation, such invalidity shall not affect the validity or enforceability of any other provision of this Contract.
16. **CHANGES.** This Contract may be modified by approved change orders, consistent with applicable laws, rules and regulations. The County, without invalidating this Contract, may order changes consisting of additions, deletions, and/or modifications, and the contract sum shall be adjusted accordingly. This Contract and the contract terms may be changed only by change order. The cost or credit to the County from change in this Contract shall be determined by mutual agreement before executing the change involved.
17. **NOTICES.** Notices required by this Contract shall be effective upon mailing of notice by regular and certified mail to the addresses set forth above, or by personal service, or if such notice cannot be delivered or personally served, then by any procedure for notice pursuant to the Rules of Court of the State of New Jersey.
18. **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.** The terms and provisions of this Contract shall be construed pursuant to the laws of the State of New Jersey and, where applicable, the laws of the United States of America.
19. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS.** The parties acknowledge that Attorney is an independent contractor and is not an agent of the County.
20. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST.** Attorney covenants that it presently has no interest and shall not acquire any interest, direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services pursuant to this Contract. The Company further covenants that in the performance of this Contract, no person having any such interest shall be employed.
21. **CONFIDENTIALITY.** Attorney agrees not to divulge or release any information, reports, or recommendations developed or obtained in connection with the performance of this Contract, during the term of this Contract, except to authorized County personnel or upon prior approval of the County.
22. **BINDING EFFECT.** This Contract shall be binding on the undersigned and their successors and assigns.
23. **CONTRACT PARTS.** This Contract consists of this Contract document, RFP-012-032 issued by the County of Gloucester and Attorney's responsive proposal dated March 21, 2012, all of which are incorporated herein and made a part hereof by reference. Should there occur a conflict between this form of contract and RFP-012-032, then this contract shall prevail. If there

should occur a conflict between this Contract or RFP-012-032 and Attorney's responsive proposal, then this Contract or RFP-012-032, as the case may be, shall prevail.

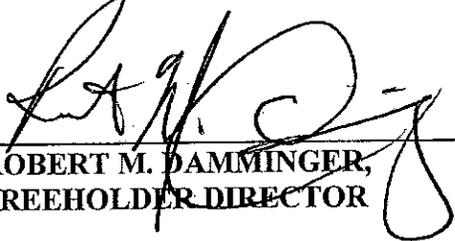
THIS CONTRACT is made effective the 11th day of July, 2012.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the County has caused this instrument to be signed by its Director, attested by its Clerk, and its corporate seal affixed hereunto, pursuant to a Resolution of the said party of the first part passed for that purpose, and Contractor has caused this instrument to be signed by its properly authorized representative and its corporate seal affixed the day and year first above written.

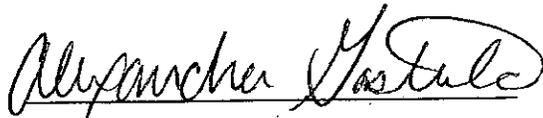
ATTEST:


ROBERT N. DI LELLA, CLERK
CLERK OF THE BOARD

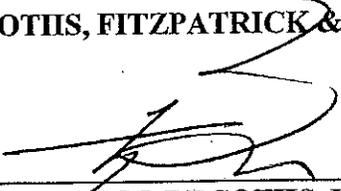
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER


ROBERT M. DAMMING,
FREEHOLDER DIRECTOR

ATTEST:



DECOTIS, FITZPATRICK & COLE, LLP


By: JOSEPH M. DECOTIS, ESQ.
Title: ~~Managing Partner~~
FRANK J. BORIN
Partner