

6/21/23

**CONTRACT BETWEEN  
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER  
AND  
DECOTHS, FITZPATRICK, COLE & GIBLIN, LLP**

This Contract is made this 21<sup>ST</sup> day of June, 2023, by and between the **COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER**, a body politic and corporate, with offices in Woodbury, New Jersey, hereinafter referred to as "County", and **DECOTHS, FITZPATRICK, COLE & GIBLIN, LLP**, with offices at 61 South Paramus Road, Paramus, New Jersey 07652, 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 in connection with Gloucester County Tax Appeals regarding various property types including large scale and complex Commercial and Industrial facilities, Petro Chemical Facilities, Hotel/Motel, Heavy Industrial Manufacturing facilities, Assisted Living Facilities and Long-Term Care facilities and various other special use properties as more particularly set forth in RFP# 023-035; 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.** This Contract shall be for the period beginning June 12, 2023 and concluding June 11, 2024.

**2. COMPENSATION AND BILLING REQUIREMENTS.**

**A.** Contract shall be for estimated units of services, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000.00. Attorney shall be paid at an hourly rate of \$175.00 for Equity Partner; \$150.00 an hour for Non-Equity Partner, \$125.00 an hour for Associates and \$75.00 an hour for Paraprofessionals 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 the 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 office conferences between two or more attorneys of the same firm shall be limited to the 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 County for reasonableness.

3. **DUTIES OF ATTORNEY**. The specific duties of the Attorney shall be as set forth in the County's RFP# 023-035, and Attorney's responsive proposal dated May 9, 2023, 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# 023-035, 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. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENT**. No party in any contract with the County of Gloucester shall use, or allow to be used, his contractual relationship, or any information not generally available to the members of the public, which he receives or acquires in the course of and by reason of his relationship with the County of Gloucester for the purpose of securing

financial gain for himself, members of his immediate family, or any business organization with which he is associated.

No party to any contract with the County of Gloucester (this shall include members of the immediate family or business organization in which he has any interests, shall solicit or accept any gift, favor, loan, service, contract for service, promise of future employment, or any other thing of value based upon an understanding that the above was given, offered or received for the purpose of influencing him, directly or indirectly, in the discharge of this contractual obligation.

The Attorney acknowledges that it will immediately advise the County of Gloucester of any present or potential conflict and that it is a continuing obligation of the Attorney to so advise during his contract and/or relationship with the County of Gloucester.

**5. FURTHER OBLIGATIONS OF THE PARTIES.** During the performance of this Contract, the Attorney agrees as follows:

The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, will not discriminate against any employee or applicant for employment because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service. The Attorney will ensure that equal employment opportunity is afforded to such applicants in recruitment and employment, and that employees are treated during employment, without regard to their age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service. Such equal employment opportunity 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. The 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 nondiscrimination clause.

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 age, race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, disability, nationality, sex, veteran status or military service.

The Attorney or subcontractor will send to each labor union, with which it has a collective bargaining agreement, a notice, to be provided by the agency contracting officer, advising the labor union of the Attorney's commitments under this chapter and shall post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment.

The Attorney or subcontractor, where applicable, agrees to comply with any regulations promulgated by the Treasurer pursuant to N.J.S.A. 10:5-31 et seq., as amended and supplemented from time to time and the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Attorney or subcontractor agrees to make good faith efforts to meet targeted county employment goals established in accordance with N.J.A.C. 17:27-5.2.

6. **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.

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

A. Pursuant to the termination provisions set forth in RFP# 023-035, which are specifically referred to and incorporated herein by reference.

B. If Attorney/firm 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/firm, 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 Contractor. If the Contract is terminated by the County as provided herein, the Contractor will be paid for the services rendered to the time of termination.

E. Notwithstanding the above, the Attorney/firm, 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.

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/firm, where applicable, shall be responsible for, shall keep, save and hold the County of Gloucester harmless from, and 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. **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.

11. **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.

12. **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.

13. **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.

14. **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.

15. **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.

16. **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.

17. **COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE LAW.** Attorney shall at all times during the course of the effective period of this Contract comply with and be subject to all applicable laws, rules and regulations of the State of New Jersey and of any other entity having jurisdiction pertaining to the performance of Attorney's services.

18. **GOVERNING LAW, JURISDICTION AND VENUE.** This agreement and all questions relating to its validity, interpretation, performance or enforcement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey. The parties each irrevocably agree that any dispute arising under, relating to, or in connection with, directly or indirectly, this agreement or related to any matter which is the subject of or incidental to this agreement (whether or not such claim is based upon breach of contract or tort) shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction and venue of the state and/or federal courts located in Gloucester County, New Jersey or the United States District Court, District of New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey. This provision is intended to be a "mandatory" forum selection clause and governed by and interpreted consistent with New Jersey law and each waives any objection based on forum non conveniens.

19. **INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR STATUS.** The parties acknowledge that Attorney is an independent contractor and is not an agent of the County.

20. **FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE.** The Attorney if required by law shall file a Financial Disclosure Statement, pursuant to Local Government Ethics Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:9-22.1, et seq., P.L. 1991, c. 29.

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# 023-035 issued by the County of Gloucester and Attorney's responsive proposal dated May 9, 2023. Should there occur a conflict between this form of contract and the County's RFP# 023-035, then this Contract shall prevail. If there should occur a conflict between this Contract or RFP# 023-035 issued by the County of Gloucester and the Attorney's responsive proposal dated May 9, 2023, then this Contract or the RFP, as the case may be, shall prevail.

'THIS CONTRACT is dated this 21<sup>st</sup> day of June, 2023.

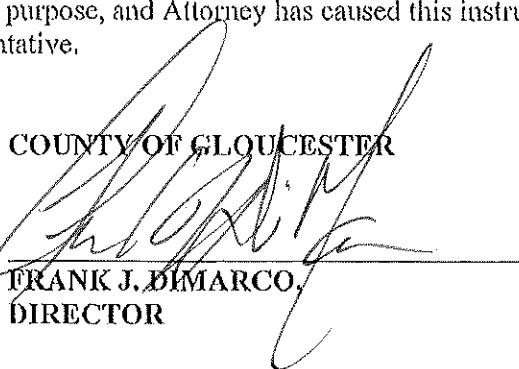
**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, the County has caused this instrument to be signed by its Director, attested by its Clerk, and its corporate seal affixed hereto, pursuant to a Resolution of the said party of the first part passed for that purpose, and Attorney has caused this instrument to be signed by its properly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

ATTEST:

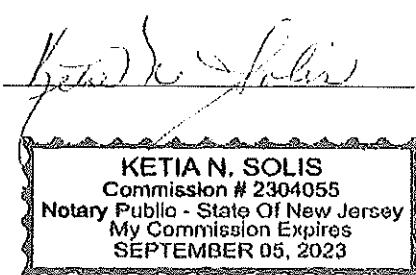


LAURIE J. BURNS  
CLERK OF THE BOARD

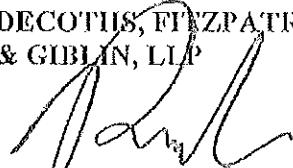
COUNTY OF GLOUCESTER

  
FRANK J. DIMARCO  
DIRECTOR

ATTEST:



DECOTIIS, FITZPATRICK, COLE  
& GIBLIN, LLP

  
Name: Ryan J. Scerbo  
Title: Partner