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CONTRACT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

THIS AGREEMENT is made this 24th day of September, 2024, in the Territory of the Virgin Islands, by and between the Government of the Virgin Islands, Department of Property and Procurement, on behalf of the Department of Health (hereinafter referred to as "Government or DOH") and King & King Law, P.C. (hereinafter referred to as "Contractor").

WITNESSETH:

WHEREAS, the Government is in need of a Contractor, to act as legal counsel in medical malpractice cases, for private health care providers, that have medical malpractice coverage through the self-insurance program administered by the Government of the Virgin Islands through the Department of Health. The duties and responsibilities of the Contractor are outlined in Addendum I (Scope of Services) attached hereto; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to 27 V.I.C. § 166e(g)(2) the Commissioner of the Department of Health is authorized to provide defense counsel for health care providers insured under the Department of health self-insurance risk management program; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of the Department of Health is exempt from competitive bidding for the acquisition of risk management services See, 27 V.I.C. § 166e(h); and

WHEREAS, Professional Services Contract No. P079DOHT22 which was executed on April 1, 2022 and Renewal No. 1 expired pursuant to its terms on March 14, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health has identified a need to continue the services provided as legal counsel in medical malpractice cases, for private health care providers, that have medical malpractice coverage through the self-insurance program administered by the Government of the Virgin Islands through the Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, Contractor was selected under 31 V.I.C. § 239(a)(8);

WHEREAS, the Contractor represents that it is willing and capable of providing such services; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual covenants herein contained, and intending to be legally bound by this written instrument, the parties hereto do covenant and agree as follows:

1. SERVICES

The Contractor will provide the services described in Addendum I (Scope of Services) attached hereto and made a part of this contract.



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2. TERM AND EFFECTIVE DATE

The term of this Contract shall be from March 15, 2024, to March 14, 2027. Upon the date of execution of this Contract, by the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands, this Contract shall become effective for the Term set out herein. The Government in its sole discretion, shall have the option to renew this Contract for a period of two (2) additional one year each subject to the same terms noted herein, by providing the Contractor with sixty (60) days written notice of the Government's election to renew.

3. COMPENSATION

The Government, in consideration of the satisfactory performance of the services described in Addendum I (Scope of Services), agrees to pay Contractor a sum not to exceed ONE MILLION THREE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$1,350,000.00) in accordance with the provisions set forth in Addendum II (Compensation) attached hereto and made a part of this contract.

4. TRAVEL EXPENSES

Inclusive of the compensation for services as specified in Paragraph 3 (Compensation) above, the Government agrees to pay documented transportation, subsistence, lodging and other travel expenses, while in travel status, for trips which have been authorized in writing, in advance, by the Government. These costs shall be advanced or reimbursed on the same basis as is applicable to non-contract employees of the Government, or as agreed to by an addendum to this Contract, however, said costs and expenses shall not exceed N/A.

5. RECORDS

The Contractor shall present monthly reports of the precise documented records of time and/or money expended for costs under this Contract.

6. PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS

The Contractor agrees to maintain the professional standards applicable to its profession and to consultants doing business in the United States Virgin Islands. The Contractor affirms that all attorneys who will perform work under this Contract are duly licensed to practice law in the Virgin Islands and are in good standing with the V.I. Bar and the V.I. Supreme Court. The Contractor further affirms that it will abide by all applicable rules of professional responsibility, including all applicable provisions of confidentiality, during the term of this Contract. Contractor shall provide a Certificate of Good Standing to practice law in the U.S. Virgin Islands. The Contractor is responsible for all professional fees relating to any licensure in the Virgin Islands.

7. DOCUMENTS, PRINTOUTS, ETC.



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All documents, books, records, instructional materials, programs, printouts and memoranda of every description derived therefrom and pertaining to this Contract are the property of the Government and shall be turned over to it at the termination of this Contract. The above described materials shall not be used by Contractor or by any other person or entity except upon the written permission of the Government.

8. LIABILITY OF OTHERS

Nothing in this Contract shall be construed to impose any liability upon the Government to persons, firms, associations, or corporations engaged by Contractor as servants, agents, or independent contractors, or in any other capacity whatsoever, or make Government liable to any such persons, firms, associations, or corporations for the acts, omissions, liabilities, obligations and taxes of Contractor of whatsoever nature, including but not limited to unemployment insurance, gross receipt, excise, and social security taxes for Contractor, its servants, agents or independent contractors.

9. ASSIGNMENT

The Contractor shall not subcontract or assign any part of the services under this Contract without the prior written consent of the Government.

10. INDEMNIFICATION

Contractor agrees to indemnify, defend and hold harmless Government from and against any and all loss, damage, liability, claims, demands, detriments, costs, charges and expenses (including attorney's fees) and causes of action of whatsoever character which Government may incur, sustain or be subjected to, arising out of or in any way connected to the services to be performed by Contractor under this Contract and arising from any cause, except such claims that are caused by the negligence of Government.

11. INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR

The Contractor shall perform this Contract as an independent contractor and nothing herein contained shall be construed to be inconsistent with this relationship or status.

12. GOVERNING LAW

This Contract shall be governed by the laws of the United States Virgin Islands and jurisdiction shall remain in the United States Virgin Islands.



13. WAIVERS AND AMENDMENTS

No waiver, modification or amendment of any term, condition, or provision of this Contract shall be valid or of any force or effect unless made in writing, signed by the parties hereto or their duly authorized representatives, and specifying with particularity the nature and extent of such waiver, modification or amendment. Any such waiver, modification or amendment in any instance or instances shall in no event be construed to be a general waiver, modification or amendment of any of the terms, conditions or provisions of this Contract, but the same shall be strictly limited and restricted to the extent and occasion specified in such signed writing or writings.

14. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This agreement constitutes the entire agreement of the parties relating to the subject matter addressed in this Agreement. This agreement supersedes all prior communications, contracts, or agreements between the parties with respect to the subject matter addressed in this agreement, whether written or oral.

15. RIGHT TO WITHHOLD

If work under this Contract is not performed in accordance with the terms hereof, Government will have the right to withhold out of any payment due to Contractor, such sums as Government may deem ample to protect it against loss or to assure payment of claims arising therefrom, and, at its option, Government may apply such sums in such manner as Government may deem proper to secure itself or to satisfy such claims. Government will immediately notify the Contractor in writing in the event that it elects to exercise its right to withhold.

No such withholding or application shall be made by Government if and while Contractor gives satisfactory assurance to Government that such claims will be paid by Contractor or its insurance carrier, if applicable in the event that such contest is not successful.

16. CONDITION PRECEDENT

This Contract shall be subject to the availability and appropriation of funds and to the approval of the Governor of the U.S. Virgin Islands.

17. TERMINATION

Either party will have the right to terminate this Contract with or without cause on sixty (60) days written notice to the other party specifying the date of termination.



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18. PARTIAL TERMINATION

The performance of work under this Contract may be terminated by the Government, in part, whenever the Government shall deem such termination advisable by providing sixty (60) days written notice to the Contractor. This partial termination shall be effected by delivering to the Contractor a Notice of Partial Termination specifying the extent to which the term and/or duties under this Contract are terminated and the date upon which such termination becomes effective. The Contractor shall be entitled to receive payment for services provided to the date of termination, including payment for the period of the sixty (60) day notice.

19. NON-DISCRIMINATION

No person shall be excluded from participating in, be denied the proceeds of or be subject to discrimination in the performance of this Contract on account of race, creed, color, sex, religion, disability or national origin.

20. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

- (a) Contractor covenants that it has no interest and will not acquire any interest direct or indirect, which would conflict in any manner or degree with the performance of services required to be performed under this Contract.
- (b) Contractor further covenants that it is:
 - (1) not a territorial officer or employee (i.e., the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, member of the Legislature, or any other elected territorial official; or an officer or employee of the legislative, executive or judicial branch of the Government or any agency, board, commission or independent instrumentality of the Government, whether compensated on a salary, fee or contractual basis); or
 - (2) a territorial officer or employee and, as such, has:
 - (i) familiarized itself with the provisions of Title 3, Chapter 37 of the Virgin Islands Code, pertaining to conflicts of interest, including the penalties provision set forth in section 1108 thereof;
 - (ii) not made, negotiated or influenced this Contract, in its official capacity; and
 - (iii) no financial interest in the Contract as that term is defined in section 1101(1) of said Code chapter.

21. NOTICE

Any notice required to be given by the Terms of this Contract shall be deemed to have been given when the same is sent by certified mail, postage prepaid or personally delivered, addressed to the parties as follows:



GOVERNMENT

Lisa M. Alejandro
Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement
8201 Sub Base, Suite 4
St. Thomas Virgin Islands 00802

Justa Encarnacion, RN, BSN, MBA/HCM
Commissioner
Department of Health
1303 Hospital Ground, Suite 10
St. Thomas, VI 00802



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CONTRACTOR

Nicole- Lynn King Richardson
Member
King & King Law, P.C.
5043 Norre Gade, Suite 2
P.O. Box 9768
St. Thomas, V.I. 00802

22. LICENSURE

The Contractor covenants that it has:

- (a) obtained all of the applicable licenses or permits, permanent, temporary or otherwise as required by Title 27 of the Virgin Islands Code; and
- (b) familiarized itself with the applicable provisions of Title 27 of the Virgin Islands Code pertaining to professions and occupations.

23. OTHER PROVISIONS

Addenda I, II, and III attached hereto are a part of this Contract and are incorporated herein by reference.

24. DEBARMENT CERTIFICATION

By execution of this contract, the contractor certifies that it is eligible to receive contract awards using federally appropriated funds and that it has not been suspended or debarred from entering into contracts with any federal agency. The Contractor shall include this provision in each of its subcontracts hereunder and shall furnish its subcontractors with the current "LIST OF PARTIES EXCLUDED FROM FEDERAL PROCUREMENT OR NON-PROCUREMENT". In the event



the Contractor or any subcontractor misrepresents its eligibility to receive contract awards using federal funds, the Contractor or subcontractor agrees that it shall not be entitled to payment for any work performed under this contract or any subcontract and that the Contractor or subcontractor shall promptly reimburse the Government of the Virgin Islands for any progress payments heretofore made.

25. FALSE CLAIMS

Contractor warrants that it shall not, with respect to this Contract, make or present any claim upon or against the Government of the Virgin Islands, or any officer department, board, commission, or other agency thereof, knowing such claims to be false, fictitious or fraudulent. Contractor acknowledges that making such a false, fictitious or fraudulent claim is an offence under Virgin Islands law.

26. INSURANCE

Contractor shall maintain the following insurance coverages during the term of this Contract

- (a) **COMMERCIAL GENERAL LIABILITY:** Commercial general liability insurance, in a form acceptable to the Government, on a "per occurrence" basis with a minimum limit of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for any one person per occurrence for death or personal injury and one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) for any one occurrence for property damage. Insurance policy(ies) shall name the Government of the Virgin Islands as the certificate holder and additional insured via an endorsement.
- (b) **PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY:** Professional liability insurance, in a form acceptable to the Government, which covers the services being performed under this Contract, with policy limits of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000.00) per claim. The Government shall be listed thereon as a certificate holder.
- (c) **WORKERS' COMPENSATION:** Contractor shall supply current coverage under the Government Insurance Fund or other form of coverage.

27. HIPAA COMPLIANCE

Parties agree to respect and abide by all federal, state and local laws pertaining to confidentiality with regard to all information and records obtained or reviewed in the course of providing services under this Agreement and all federal rules under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) governing the privacy, security and use of protected health information.



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28. FACSIMILE, ELECTRONIC & DIGITAL SIGNATURES

A facsimile, electronic or digital signature on this Contract shall be deemed an original and binding upon the Parties hereto.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto set their hands on the day and year first above written.

GOVERNMENT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Justa E. Encarnacion, RN
Justa E. Encarnacion, Commissioner
Department of Health

Date: 8/29/2024

Lisa M. Alejandro
Lisa M. Alejandro, Commissioner
Department of Property and Procurement

Date: 9/6/2024

CONTRACTOR

Nicole Lynn King-Richardson, Esq.
Nicole Lynn King-Richardson, Esq., Member
King & King Law, P.C.

Date: 8/9/24

(Corporate seal, if Contractor is a corporation)

APPROVED AS TO LEGAL SUFFICIENCY

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE BY: Sean P. Bailey, AAG Date: 9/20/2024
Assistant Attorney General

APPROVED:

Honorable Albert Bryan Jr. Date: 9/20/24
Honorable Albert Bryan Jr.
GOVERNOR OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

PURCHASE ORDER NO. 5451