



Board of Education

Office of the Board
1 North Dearborn Street
Suite 950
Chicago, IL 60602

Board Report

24-1101-AR2

Agenda Date: 11/1/2024

AMEND BOARD REPORT 24-0829-AR3

AMEND BOARD REPORT 24-0627-AR2

AUTHORIZE CONTINUED RETENTION OF VARIOUS OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS

THE GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:

Continued retention of various outside counsel law firms for Fiscal Year 2025.

This November 2024 amends #17 Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP and #19 ArentFox Schiff LLP (f/k/a Schiff Hardin) (Attachment E) for additional spending authority.

This August 2024 amends #7 Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP and #11 Laner Muchin LTD (Attachment E) for additional spending authority. #19 ArentFox Schiff LLP f/k/a Schiff Hardin was inadvertently omitted from Board Report 24-0627-AR2 (Attachment E) and is now being added to this report for additional spending authority.

DESCRIPTION: The General Counsel has continued the retention of various outside counsel law firms (see attached list A-H of firms) to provide legal services to the Board in fiscal year 2025 for the following services: (A) continued retention of firms on a contingency fee basis to represent the Board in affirmative litigation; (B) continued retention of real estate firms to represent the Board in real estate related matters; (C) continued retention of the firm LegalPeople to provide legal services on a temporary basis to the Office of the Inspector General on a variety of matters related to time-intensive investigative tasks; (D) continued retention of firms to represent the Board in workers' compensation matters; (E) continued retention of firms to provide legal services to the Board on an hourly or flat fee basis, including, but not limited to the following legal services: representation in administrative hearings, consultative services, litigation defense, transactions, and such other matters as deemed appropriate by the General Counsel; (F) continued retention of additional firms to provide legal services to the Board on an hourly or flat fee basis, including, but not limited to the following legal services: representation in administrative hearings, consultative services, litigation defense, transactions, and such other matters as deemed appropriate by the General Counsel; (G) continued retention of firms to assist the Talent Office with legal advice related to immigration and employee benefits; and (H) continued retention of Broadband Legal Services to provide legal advice to Information and Technology Services related to technology grant compliance. The law firms and the not-to-exceed amounts authorized are set forth in Attachments A-H. As invoices are received, they will be reviewed by the General Counsel and others, and if satisfactory, processed for payment.

LSC REVIEW: LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS: None.

FINANCIAL: Charge: \$150,000.00 to **Department of Real Estate** - Cell Tower Installation Program
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....11910-124-54125-253201-000388

Charge: \$750,000.00 to **Department of Real Estate**
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....11910-230-54125-251148-000000

Future year funding is contingent upon budget appropriations and approval. **(Attachment B)**

Charge: \$350,000.00 to **Office of the Inspector General (Attachment C)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....10320-115-54125-252801-000000

Charge \$221,000.00 to **Talent Office (Worker’s Compensation) - Professional Services (Attachment D)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....12470-210

Charge ~~\$1,510,000.00~~ ~~\$1,485,000.00~~ to **Law Department - Professional Services (Attachment E)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....10210-115

Charge \$1,450,000.00 to **Risk Management - Professional Services (Attachment F)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....12460-115-54125-261016-000000

Charge \$290,000.00 to **Talent Office - Professional Services (Attachment G)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....11010-115-54125-264207-000000

Charge \$35,000.00 to **Information and Technology Services - Professional Services (Attachment H)**:
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2025.....12510-115-54405-254501-000000

GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General - Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts - The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness - The Board’s Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics - The Board’s Ethics Code adopted August 24, 2023 (23-0824-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability - The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

APPROVED,

DocuSigned by:
Ruchi Verma
56B662F-0FF-A44C9
RUCHI VERMA
General Counsel

ATTACHMENT A

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS FOR AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION/CONTINGENCY FEE

	Firm/Practitioner	Terms of Engagement
1.	Coghlan Law LLC	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #20-1028-AR5
2.	Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #20-0122-AR4
3.	Nielsen, Zehe & Antas, P.C.	Contingency as set forth in Board Report #20-1216-AR5 (Note: Includes non-contingency terms)
4.	Schochor, Staton, Goldberg and Cardea, P.A. (f.k.a. Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.)	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #21-0428-AR3
5.	Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #21-0428-AR4

ATTACHMENT B

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - REAL ESTATE

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Hill Law Offices (Deborah Hill)	\$150,000.00
2.	Neal & Leroy, LLC	\$750,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$900,000.00

ATTACHMENT C

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	LegalPeople, A Temporary Legal Services Agency	\$350,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$350,000.00

ATTACHMENT D

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - TALENT OFFICE (WORKERS COMPENSATION)

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Klauke Law Group	\$55,250.00
2.	Brady Connolly & Masuda, P.C.	\$55,250.00
3.	Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.	\$55,250.00
4.	Leahy Eisenberg & Fraenkel LTD	\$55,250.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$221,000.00

The firms are paid as an Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses of Workers Compensation claims and as part of the third-party administrator CCMSI's allocated budget.

ATTACHMENT E

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - HOURLY AND FLAT FEE BASIS

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Akerman LLP	\$15,000.00
2.	Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$15,000.00
3.	Burke, Burns & Pinelli, Ltd.	\$10,000.00
4.	Burke Warren Mackay & Serritella, P.C.	\$150,000.00
5.	Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga LLC	\$75,000.00
6.	Franczek, P.C.	\$850,000.00
7.	Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP [<u>Noted: Amended in Board Report 24-0829-AR3 by \$15,000.00</u>]	\$35,000.00
8.	Greenberg Traurig, LLP	\$20,000.00
9.	Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP	\$50,000.00
10.	Ice Miller LLP	\$15,000.00
11.	Laner Muchin, LTD. [<u>Noted: Amended in Board Report 24-0829-AR3 by \$15,000.00</u>]	\$30,000.00
12.	MoloLamken, LLP	\$10,000.00
13.	Robinson, Stewart, Montgomery & Doppke LLC	\$5,000.00
14.	Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC	\$75,000.00
15.	Salvatore, Prescott, Porter & Porter, PLLC	\$25,000.00
16.	Sotos Law Firm, P.C.	\$50,000.00
17.	<u>Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP</u>	\$45,000.00 \$25,000.00
18.	Yahnig, Esther	\$15,000.00
19.	<u>ArentFox Schiff LLP (f/k/a Schiff Hardin)</u>	\$20,000.00 \$15,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$1,510,000.00 \$1,485,000.00

ATTACHMENT F

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - RISK MANAGEMENT

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$200,000.00
2.	Burns Noland, LLP (f.k.a. Reiter Burns)	\$25,000.00
3.	Ekl, Williams & Provenzale, LLC	\$25,000.00
4.	Eydie R. Glassman, Esq. Legal & Consulting Services, LLC	\$25,000.00
5.	Franczek	\$50,000.00
6.	Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP	\$250,000.00
7.	Greenberg Traurig, LLP	\$150,000.00
8.	Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP	\$150,000.00
9.	Mohan Groble Scolaro P.C.	\$25,000.00
10.	Nathan & Kamionski	\$25,000.00
11.	Nielsen, Zehe & Antas, P.C.	\$25,000.00
12.	Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.	\$250,000.00
13.	Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC	\$150,000.00
14.	Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP	\$50,000.00
15.	Tristan & Cervantes	\$50,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$1,450,000.00

ATTACHMENT G

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - TALENT OFFICE

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Ice Miller LLP	\$15,000.00
2.	Jarecki Law Group, LLC	\$275,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$290,000.00

ATTACHMENT H

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

	Firm/Practitioner	Not to exceed Authority
1.	Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC	\$35,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$35,000.00