

## **Professional Legal Services Questionnaire Instructions**

- The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire shall be used for outside legal services.
- **The Professional Legal Services Questionnaire should be completely filled out. Complete and attach ALL sections. Insert “N/A” or “None” if a section does not apply or if there is no information to provide.**
- Questionnaire must be signed by an authorized representative of the Firm. Failure to sign the questionnaire shall result in disqualification of proposer pursuant to J.P. Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-928.
- All subcontractors must be listed in the appropriate section of the Questionnaire. Each subcontractor must provide a complete copy of the Professional Legal Services Questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement. Failure to provide the subcontractors' complete questionnaire(s), applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement shall result in disqualification of proposer pursuant to J.P. Code of Ordinances Sec. 2-928.
- If additional pages are needed, attach them to the questionnaire and include all applicable information that is required by the questionnaire.

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

### A. Person or Firm Name & Principal Address:

J. Christopher Zainey, Jr., Esq.  
 701 Magazine Street  
 New Orleans, LA 70130  
 (504) 581-1750 (Phone)  
 (504) 529-2931 (Fax)  
 czainey@lambertzainey.com

### B. Name, Title, & contact information of Firm Representative, as defined in Section 2-926 of the Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, who is licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana with a minimum of five (5) years' experience:

J. Christopher Zainey, Jr., Esq.  
 701 Magazine Street  
 New Orleans, LA 70130  
 (504) 581-1750 (Phone)  
 (504) 529-2931 (Fax)  
 czainey@lambertzainey.com

### C. Location of the principal:

701 Magazine Street  
 New Orleans, LA 70130

### D. Please check the legal field or fields in which Firm is qualified to perform services for Jefferson Parish and include the number of years of experience in that particular field.

<input type="checkbox"/> Bond Services (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology Law (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Elections (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> State & Local Government Law (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Regulatory (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxation (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust Law (Years: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tort Trial & Insurance Practices (Years: <u>13+</u> )
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Law (Years: <u>13+</u> )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Complex Litigation (including asbestos litigation) (Years: <u>13+</u> )
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Securities (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispute Resolution (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Law (Years: _____)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environmental, Energy & Resources (Years: <u>13+</u> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Matters (Years: _____)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health Law (Years: <u>7+</u> )	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights & the Constitution (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property (Years: _____)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal Representation (including liability & intergovernmental conflicts) (Years: <u>13+</u> )
<input type="checkbox"/> International Law (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement Matters (Years: _____)
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment Law (Years: _____)	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Contract Law (Years: _____)	

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation Law (Years: 14+) <input type="checkbox"/> Property (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust & Estate Law (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other/specific project as required by the advertisement (Years: 14+ )	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Oil Spill Litigation (Years: 12+ ) <input type="checkbox"/> Public Finance (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use, Planning & Zoning Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Development (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Construction Law (Years: _____)
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**E. List all subcontractors anticipated for this Project. Please note that all subcontractors must submit a fully completed copy of this questionnaire, applicable licenses, and any other information required by the advertisement. See Jefferson Parish Code of Ordinances, Sec. 2-928(a)(3). Please attach additional pages if necessary.**

Name & Address:	Specialty:	Worked with Firm Before (Yes or No):
1. Berrigan Litchfield, LLC (will be submitting their own Statement of Qualifications to the Parish)	Tort Litigation, Complex Litigation, Business Litigation, etc.	Yes
2.		
3.		
4.		

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

### **F. Professional Training and experience in relation to the type of work required for the outside legal services.**

Approximately five years ago, I had the distinct honor of being appointed by the Jefferson Parish Council to be a part of the Parish's legal team in representing the Parish (and ultimately the two hospital service districts within the Parish as well) for each entity's claims for damages arising from the horrific opioid epidemic that has taken our Parish, state and country by storm. Throughout the course of this representation, our team has worked vigorously in moving this case forward, including, but not limited to filing suit in federal court in the Eastern District of Louisiana, finding and working closely with a forensic accounting expert on identifying and quantifying prospective damages (whom I personally found for our team), our drafting and submission of the Parish and Hospitals' Government Fact Sheets, other federal court pleadings (within both the MDL proceeding as well as within various defendant bankruptcy proceedings) and other countless efforts during this very active and vigorous representation of the Parish's interests. As referenced above, since our initial filing of the lawsuit, this case has since been transferred to federal court in Cleveland, Ohio, and is now a part of the complex Multi-District Litigation ("MDL") that arose from similar "opioid" lawsuits from around the country – In Re: National Prescription Opiate Litigation, MDL-2804, before the Honorable Dan A. Polster for the United States District Court Northern District of Ohio, Eastern Division. From my past experiences working in the trenches of another MDL (see below), I have the good fortune of having several colleagues from around the country who also have clients within this Multi-District Litigation – which has also been a very helpful tool in coordinating on common issues faced by other governmental entities from around this country. As of the date of this updated submission, my and our team's vigorous efforts on behalf of Jefferson Parish are continuous and ongoing, and I look forward to continuing my most diligent efforts on behalf of the Parish on these matters. Additionally, as of the date of this submission, we have reached a settlement with respect to some of the underlying defendants in this complex matter, and we remain in the process of (1) finalizing logistics on these particular settlements and (2) continuing onward in the litigation with respect to the other non-settling defendants, as well as those defendants currently in bankruptcy. Also, as of the date of this updated submission, particularly over the past three years, I have been, and continue to be, one of the most active attorneys statewide with respect to coordinating efforts on behalf of all Louisiana Parishes regarding negotiations that require a unified front of all Louisiana parishes and other local governments. I am frequently called by other "opioid" attorneys statewide and am asked to provide guidance to them as they navigate their own particular clients' claims forward. I intend on continuing in this leadership capacity as things continue to progress, and I am honored and humbled to be able to do so. As of just the past few months, initial settlement funds stemming from our team's vigorous efforts have become available to the Parish, with additional funds forthcoming as this matter and this complex settlement process continues.

As stated in my previous submissions to you, I have been admitted to practice law in the State of Louisiana since 2008, and have extensive litigation experience in both state and federal courts throughout Louisiana as well as throughout other parts of the country. Upon graduation from Loyola Law School in 2008, I served as a federal judicial law clerk to the Honorable James J. Brady of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Louisiana in Baton Rouge. Since the completion of my federal judicial clerkship, I have practiced law throughout Louisiana based out of my offices in downtown New Orleans (including my current office), and have handled numerous types of civil cases in and around Jefferson Parish and beyond. My extensive experience includes all aspects of litigation (including but not limited to trial and pre-trial work, depositions, discovery, motion practice, mediation, etc.) and other work in a variety of legal fields, including but not limited to personal injury litigation, maritime law, business litigation, environmental litigation and mass torts. While an attorney at the Williams Law Group, LLC, I worked with the Deposition and Trial Teams of the Plaintiff's Steering Committee within MDL-2179 in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana, the massive multi-district litigation arising out of the explosion of the M/V Deepwater Horizon and subsequent BP oil spill. While this litigation spanned the course of a few years, I successfully balanced this workload with a full docket of other "more traditional" legal matters as well, including but not limited to personal injury litigation and business disputes. Over the past several years, I have also had the privilege of representing the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court's Office on a number of occasions and have been appointed by judges of the 24th Judicial District Court for the Parish of Jefferson on numerous occasions to serve as "curator ad hoc" in an effort to assist the Court in fair and equitable resolutions to often times complex legal issues concerning residents of Jefferson Parish.

I am a regular guest lecturer every summer for the Louisiana State Bar Association at its annual convention in Destin, FL as well as a regular panelist for the LSBA's Admiralty Symposium held every year in New Orleans in the Fall. In addition to my work with the LSBA (where I also serve as the Chair of the Association's Community Action Committee as well as a member of its Budget Committee, Nominating Committee and Board of Governors), I have also been asked to lecture, speak and/or moderate legal panels from a host of different organizations, including the Louisiana Association for Justice (where I serve on the Board of Governors), the Federal Bar Association (where I serve on the Board of Directors), Loyola University School of Law and Tulane University Law School, on varying topics, including but not limited to Federal Practice and Procedure, Professionalism, Maritime Law, Oral Arguments and Environmental Toxic Torts. I have presented CLEs on Legal Ethics and Professionalism to the attorneys of the Jefferson Parish Attorney's Office. I have also taught or have been asked to teach Trial Advocacy at LSU Law Center and have been selected from among my peers as a "Louisiana Super Lawyer" for the past several years.

In addition, in light of the above and also based on my past and current work experience handling complex cases for Jefferson Parish as well as private clients, I would also be honored if given the opportunity by the Parish to be appointed to any legal team representing the Parish against Defendants 3M, Dupont or any other potential Defendants in the PFAS Public Water Provider Settlements and Litigation. This is a new case of national significance whereby Jefferson Parish likely has a claim to recover damages sustained through its Water System by "Forever Chemicals" which may have entered the Parish's water supply over the years causing personal and environmental harm to our Parish and its residents.

### **G. Size of Firm and capacity for timely completion of newly assigned work considering the number of professional and support personnel required to perform the type of outside legal services tasks and the Firm's current unfinished workload.**

A little over a year ago, my law firm, The Lambert Firm, PLC recently changed names to "Lambert Zainey Smith & Soso" and consists of five full-time attorneys, including myself, all of whom are exceptionally capable, conscientious, hard-working and skillful legal practitioners. To complement our team of attorneys, our firm has five non-lawyer staff members who readily assist our team of attorneys in our daily practices. I, along with my entire firm, remain well-equipped to handle any and all legal service tasks as they come up for Jefferson Parish in a timely manner as well as maintaining our firm's ongoing daily workload. Additionally, I, along with my entire firm, continue to maintain a regular litigation practice within the 24th Judicial District Court and beyond. While I, along with other members of my firm, have extensive experience in Multi-District-Litigation for cases of national significance going on around the country, I am uniquely equipped and capable of handling even the most complex of legal matters.

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

<b>i. Please specify the total number of support staff that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above: FIVE</b>		
<b>ii. List any attorneys that may assist in the completion of a matter for each area of the law selected above. If necessary, please attach additional documentation that demonstrates the employment history and experience of the Firm's attorneys that may assist in the completion of this Project (i.e. resume). Please attach additional pages if necessary.</b>		
Name:	Legal Field:	Years of Experience in Legal Field:
<b>1.</b> J. Christopher Zainey, Jr., Esq.	Complex Litigation, Tort Law, Business Law, Insurance Law, Transportation Law, Oil Spill Litigation, Environmental Law, Products Liability	14+ years
<b>2.</b> Hugh P. Lambert, Esq.	Complex Litigation, Tort Law, Business Law, Insurance Law, Transportation Law, Oil Spill Litigation, Environmental Law, Products Liability	40+ years
<b>3.</b> Jeremy Soso, Esq.	Tort Law, Insurance Law, Products Liability	14+ years
<b>4.</b> Jacki Smith, Esq.	Tort Law, Insurance Law, Environmental Law, Products Liability	9+ years
<b>5.</b> Brian Mersman, Esq.	Tort Law, Insurance Law, Environmental Law	4+ years

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

### **H. Past performance by person or Firm on Parish contracts. Please attach additional pages if necessary.**

Prior to my appointment and my executed parish contracts to represent the Parish in any opioid litigation, I had never previously worked pursuant to a parish contract for Jefferson Parish. Since being appointed to represent the Parish and hospital entities in the Opioid matter, I have worked tirelessly and always in the Parish's best interest. For any questions concerning my legal work on behalf of the Parish in the Opioids litigation, please contact Parish Attorney Peggy Barton whom I have had the pleasure of working with on this case on behalf of the Parish. Additionally, prior to my appointment in the Opioids litigation, and presently, I have represented and continue to represent the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court's Office on numerous occasions over the years and on a variety of legal matters. As I do for every client, I diligently performed all legal work on behalf of the Clerk's office with my best efforts and skill, successfully handling numerous matters on its behalf over the years. For any questions concerning my legal performance on behalf of the Clerk's office, please contact the Honorable Jon A. Gegenheimer whom I have had the honor to work with and represent. I have never received an assertion of fault or malfeasance against me for any prior work (relating to Jefferson Parish or otherwise), and I have always and will continue to always perform my job with the highest degree of professionalism, legal ethics, and diligence in ensuring a successful result for my clients.

### **I. Adversarial legal proceedings between the Parish and the person or Firm performing professional services, in which the Parish prevailed, and excluding those instances or cases where the person or Firm was added as an indispensable party, or where the person or Firm participated in or assisted the public entity in prosecution of its claim. In the event that the person or Firm fails to provide accurate and detailed information regarding legal proceedings with the Parish, including the absence of legal proceedings, the person or firm shall be deemed unresponsive with regard to this category, and zero (0) points shall be awarded. Please attach additional pages if necessary.**

I have never in my legal career brought any claim, filed any lawsuit nor have I had any involvement whatsoever in any legal proceedings against Jefferson Parish. To my knowledge, there are no cases against Jefferson Parish by any other member of my current law firm, nor have there been any cases naming Jefferson Parish as a defendant by any other member of my current law firm since I joined in August 2019. Further, I will avoid all conflicts and strictly comply with the Rules of Professional Responsibility as promulgated by the Louisiana Supreme Court.

## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

**J. Prior successful completion of projects of the type and nature of legal services, as defined, for which Firm has provided verifiable references. (List no more than 10 projects.)**

**1.**

While this litigation remains ongoing and there is still much work to be done, as aforementioned, I continue to work tirelessly and to the best of my ability in my current representation of the Parish (and the hospital service districts within the Parish) in the pending opioid litigation. As previously stated, we have recently entered into settlement agreements on behalf of the Parish / Hospital Districts with respect to certain defendants within this complex litigation, and this first portion of the settlement is in its infant stages of being administered through the continuing efforts of our team - as we continue to proceed onward with respect to the non-settling defendants. I look forward to continuing to serve as counsel for the Parish and Hospital Districts in all of these continuing efforts. Since I have been appointed counsel in the opioid matter, I have had the good fortune of working closely with several members of the Jefferson Parish Attorneys Office, including, among others, Ms. Danielle Hufft and Ms. Peggy Barton. Previously Ms. Hufft, and now Ms. Barton, have overseen the work of our appointed "opioid" team, and I am confident would serve as a reference to the hard work and dedication I have put forth in the handling of these serious matters, as well as a reference for my experience in handling these types of complex cases. If it would be of assistance to you, please contact Ms. Hufft or Ms. Barton for a reference of my work product / work ethic on behalf of the Parish (and hospital service districts) in the opioid litigation up to this point.

**2.**

Additionally, as previously mentioned, I have provided a variety of legal services on behalf of the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court's Office in the past, including but not limited to garnishment proceedings involving Clerk's office employees, providing counsel in writ of mandamus actions against the Clerk's office and cases involving requests of the Clerk's office made by incarcerated individuals pro se against the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court. If it would be of further assistance to you, please contact the Honorable Jon A. Gegenheimer for a reference of my work product on behalf of the Jefferson Parish Clerk of Court.

**3.**

**4.**

**5.**

**Professional Legal Services Questionnaire**

6.

7.

8.

9.

10.



Jefferson  
Parish  
State of Louisiana



## Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

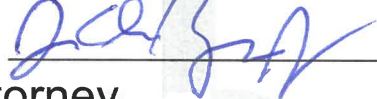
**K. Use this space to provide any additional information or description of resources supporting Firm's qualifications for the proposed project.**

As expressed in my responses above, which shall also serve as my "Statement of Qualifications" herein, I am uniquely qualified (as is my firm) to handle a wide range of legal matters on behalf of Jefferson Parish. Additionally, as previously stated, my diligent work and tireless efforts on behalf of Jefferson Parish (and its hospital service districts) over the past few years in the complex opioid litigation is a project that I am not only uniquely qualified to handle, but that I am also excited about continuing to be of service to the Parish and of seeing this critical project through to its completion. I am also uniquely qualified and would be honored to be appointed by the Parish to represent the Parish for the recovery of any potential damages it may have sustained through its water supply in the 3M and Dupont PFAS Public Water Provider Litigation and/or Settlements as well.

Please note that while the items selected in section "D" above are the legal fields/ areas specifically contained within this form document where I have previous experience -- this is not an exclusive / exhaustive list. I, and my firm, have the work ethic and credentials to assist with other areas of law in addition to those selected above and are qualified to do same. If there are any further questions of my qualifications, please let me know and I will provide any and all information requested (including but not limited to my resume or anything else that may be helpful to you when selecting qualified counsel for a specific matter).

In addition to my qualifications aforementioned, I hereby attest that I have been licensed to practice law in the State of Louisiana since 2008, thus with over 15 years as a licensed Louisiana attorney in good standing, I meet and surpass the minimum requirement of five years experience as mandated.

**L. To the best of my knowledge, the foregoing is an accurate statement of facts.**

Signature:  Print Name: J. Christopher Zainey, Jr.  
Title: Attorney Date: October 30, 2023