

THE BECKNELL LAW FIRM
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION

J. WILLIAM BECKNELL, II
jwbecknell@bellsouth.net

3445 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD
SUITE 736
METAIRIE, LA 70002

TELEPHONE: (504) 833-7325
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June 7, 2024

VIA ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

Jefferson Parish Council
c/o Ms. Lizabeth Johnston
Parish Council Clerk
General Government Building, Ste. 6700
Gretna, LA 70053

RE: Application to provide various professional legal services to Jefferson Parish

Dear Ms. Johnston:

In connection with the above referenced matter, enclosed please find our firm's Legal Services Questionnaire and Statement of Qualifications.

All work in connection with this project would be performed at the firm's office located at 3445 N. Causeway Blvd., Suite 736, Metairie, LA 70002. The firm's office has been at this location for 18 years and has been located in Jefferson Parish for 33 years.

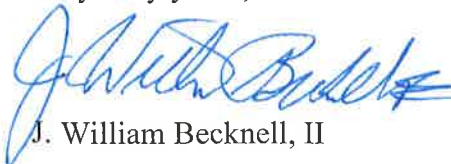
J. William Becknell, II and Allison Becknell will be the lead attorneys in connection with services performed by the firm on behalf of Jefferson Parish.

Currently, our firm is under contract with the Parish to provide legal services in connection with special tax elections to be held in the Parish. Our firm is also currently under contract with the Parish to provide legal services to assist the Parish relative to the issuance of bonds/notes for the purpose of assistance with any and all funding and/or refunding opportunities.

We trust that you will find that all past and current work performed by our firm on behalf of the Parish has been or will be completed both timely and to the Parish's complete satisfaction. Furthermore, please note that the firm has not participated in any adversarial legal proceedings against the Parish.

If you need further information or have any questions, please call me at your convenience.

Very truly yours,



J. William Becknell, II

Enclosures

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:

The Becknell Law Firm, APLC
3445 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 736
Metairie, Louisiana 70002

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. William Becknell, II
President
Tel: 504-833-7325
Fax: 504-833-1160
jwbecknell@bellsouth.net

C. Location of the principal:

3445 North Causeway Blvd., Suite 736
Metairie, Louisiana 70002

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bond Services (Years: 41)	<input type="checkbox"/> Science & Technology Law (Years:)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Elections (Years: 39)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State & Local Government Law (Years: 39)
<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative & Regulatory (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Taxation (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Antitrust Law (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Tort Trial & Insurance Practices (Years:)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Business Law (Years: 47)	<input type="checkbox"/> Complex Litigation (including asbestos litigation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Criminal Justice (Years:)	(Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispute Resolution (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Securities (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental, Energy & Resources (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Ethics Law (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Health Law (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Service Matters (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Intellectual Property (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Civil Rights & the Constitution (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> International Law (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal Representation (including liability &
<input type="checkbox"/> Labor & Employment Law (Years:)	intergovernmental conflicts) (Years:)
<input type="checkbox"/> Public Contract Law (Years:)	<input type="checkbox"/> Code Enforcement Matters (Years:)

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

<input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Communications Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Property (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Trust & Estate Law (Years: _____) <input type="checkbox"/> Other/specific project as required by the advertisement (Years: _____)	<input type="checkbox"/> Oil Spill Litigation (Years: _____) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Finance (Years: <u>41</u>) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use, Planning & Zoning Law (Years: <u>41</u>) <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. NONE	N/A	N/A
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.

*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for description of professional training and experience of The Becknell Law Firm, APLC.



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.

The firm is comprised of 4 attorneys and 3 support staff personnel, as further described below:

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

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: 3

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.

Name:	Legal Field:	Years of Experience in Legal Field:
1. J. William Becknell, II Partner	*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for attorney resume.	48
2. Allison L. Becknell Partner	*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for attorney resume.	18
3. Richard J. Tomeny, Jr. Of Counsel	*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for attorney resume.	46
4. John W. Becknell, III Associate	*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for attorney resume.	12
5.		

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

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

*Please see attached Statement of Qualifications for description of successful completion of bond counsel, elections, and business transaction work performed by the firm on behalf of the Parish.

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.

The firm has not participated in any adversarial legal proceedings against the Parish.

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.
\$20,000,000 Jefferson Parish Finance Authority Single Family Mortgage Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 (Non-AMT) (Bond Counsel)

2.
\$12,065,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana - Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services (JPAWS) Department, Eastbank Animal Shelter Project) Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 (Bond Counsel)

3.
\$1,400,000 Taxable Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana - LDNR Loan (Bond Counsel)

4.
\$10,358,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Jefferson Culture and Parks Project) Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 (Bond Counsel)

5.
\$94,785,000 Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 of Consolidated Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (Bond Counsel)

Professional Legal Services Questionnaire

6.
\$180,780,000 Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2022 of Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (Bond Counsel)
7.
2022 Tax Elections - Jefferson Parish Consolidated Road Lighting District and Fire Protection District No. 5 Millages (Election Counsel)
8.
2021 Tax Elections - Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2, Consolidated Sewerage District No. 1, Jefferson Parish Special Services District, Parishwide Courts and Culture, Road Lighting District No. 7, Ambulance Service District No. 2 Millages; Old Metairie Security Enhancement District Annual Security Enhancement Tax (Election Counsel)
9.
2020 Tax Elections - Community Center and Playground District No. 16, Consolidated Garbage District No. 1, Eastbank Consolidated Special Service Fire Protection District, Inspector General Special Services Funding District, Plantation Estates Subdivision Special District, Fire Protection District No. 3 Millages (Election Counsel)

Parishwide Election - Sale of Hospital Service District No. 2 (Election Counsel)
10.
\$52,635,000 Special Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds Series, 2019A and \$227,365,000 Special Sales Tax Revenue Bonds Series, 2019B (Bond Counsel)

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.

Currently, our firm is under contract with the Parish to provide legal services in connection with special tax elections and charter amendment elections to be held in the Parish. In connection therewith, we are currently serving as Election Counsel for the following elections to be considered on the Fall 2024 ballots: Stonebridge Subdivision Special District Annual Security Enhancement Tax (11/5/24), Charter Amendment Election (11/5/24), and Fire Protection District No. 3, not to exceed 25 mills (12/7/24). Our firm is also currently under contract with the Parish to provide legal services to assist the Parish relative to the issuance of bonds/notes for the purpose of assistance with any and all funding and/or refunding opportunities. In connection therewith, we are currently serving as Bond Counsel for the issuance of not to exceed \$17,000,000 Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana Revenue Bonds (24th Judicial District Court Drug Court Project). Our firm is also currently handling various expropriation cases in the Fat City area of the Parish. We trust that you will find that all past and current work performed by our firm on behalf of the Parish has been or will be completed both timely and to the Parish's complete satisfaction. We appreciate the opportunity to continue to assist the Parish in connection with its various legal needs.

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

Signature: 

Print Name: J. William Becknell, II

Title: President

Date: June 7, 2024

**THE BECKNELL LAW FIRM
A PROFESSIONAL LAW CORPORATION**

J. WILLIAM BECKNELL, II
jwbecknell@bellsouth.net

3445 N. CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD
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METAIRIE, LA 70002

TELEPHONE: (504) 833-7325
FACSIMILE: (504) 833-1160

STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Response to Question F:

The Becknell Law Firm, APLC has experience in commercial and governmental law including representation of various municipalities and governmental bodies as legal counsel in connection with elections and as Bond Counsel in numerous bond issues, drafting ordinances for projects needing legislative approval by city and parish councils, representation of various clients in connection with real estate, zoning and bank financing transactions, and representation of municipal bond underwriters and banks serving as trustee in connection with bond issues.

The firm is based in Metairie, Louisiana and is listed in the Bond Buyer's Municipal Market Place ("The Red Book"). Members of our firm have been involved in bond work on behalf of Jefferson Parish, the City of Kenner, the City of Gretna, the City of New Orleans and other municipalities since approximately 1983. Attorneys with the firm have specialized in Municipal Bond and Local Governmental Law, especially the structuring and drafting of all documents involved in bond issues. All of these projects have been completed on a timely basis.

In addition to the firm's experience in governmental law, bank financing transactions, real estate and commercial law, our expertise includes experience in the following aspects of the election process and the issuance of tax exempt bonds:

1. Structuring and scheduling the issuance of debt instruments, including refunding bonds secured by ad valorem taxes, sales and use taxes and other revenues for the state, parishes, municipalities, school boards and other political subdivisions.
2. Drafting trust indentures, bond resolutions, escrow agreements, bond purchase agreements, agreements among underwriters and other related agreements and documents.
3. Preparing official statements containing statistical and financial data and general information relating to the sale of debt instruments in compliance with GFOA guidelines.
4. Interacting on state and national levels with attorneys, investment bankers and underwriters, bank trustees, credit facility providers and credit rating agencies.

5. Representing clients before the State Bond Commission, rating agencies and public forums to present and explain proposed financings.
6. Determining sources of revenue available to secure debt, the payment of maintenance and operation expenses of public projects and the costs and expenses of bond issues.
7. Rendering opinions relating to the legality of bonds and their tax exempt status.
8. Preparing legislation for clients and attending legislative committee hearings.
9. Preparation of Arbitrage Certificates and Tax Compliance Certificates for purposes of complying with Section 148 of the 1986 Internal Revenue Code, as amended, relating to "Arbitrage Bonds".
10. Preparing all legislation, State Bond Commission applications, Secretary of State applications and Proces Verbals in connection with local governmental elections.

Response to Question G(ii):

The Becknell Law Firm, APLC is composed of four attorneys. The attorneys in the firm who provide services in the areas of Municipal Finance are:

J. William Becknell, II, born New Orleans, Louisiana, May 3, 1949; admitted to bar, 1976, Louisiana. Education: University of Southwestern Louisiana (B.A. 1971); Loyola University (J.D. 1976). Member: Louisiana State Bar Association and National Association of Bond Lawyers. Specialties include: Municipal Financing, Commercial Banking, Oil & Gas, Real Estate, Corporate, Commercial Litigation and Governmental Relations.

Allison L. Becknell, born Metairie, Louisiana, July 5, 1979; admitted to bar, 2006, Louisiana, U.S. District Courts, Eastern, Middle and Western Districts of Louisiana, and U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit; Education: Washington & Lee University (B.S. 2001); Loyola University (J.D. 2005). Member: Jefferson Parish and Louisiana State Bar Associations, and National Association of Bond Lawyers. Specialties include: Public Finance, State Elections Law and Commercial Transactions.

Richard J. Tomeny, Jr., admitted to bar, 1978, Louisiana; Education: University of New Orleans (B.S. 1974); Loyola University (J.D. 1978). Specialties include: Banking, Commercial Litigation, Bankruptcy and Real Estate.

John W. Becknell, III, born Metairie, Louisiana, April 2, 1987; admitted to bar, 2012, Louisiana, U.S. District Court for the Eastern and Western District of Louisiana, and U.S. Court of Appeals, 5th Circuit. Education: University of Mississippi (B.B.A. 2009); Tulane University (J.D. 2012). Specialties include: Representation of Governmental Entities and Governmental Relations.

The Firm's office address and telephone numbers are as follows:

3445 N. Causeway Blvd.
Suite 736
Metairie, Louisiana 70002
Telephone: 504-833-7325
Fax: 504-833-1160

Response to Question H:

In connection with municipal bond issues, the firm has participated as counsel in numerous issues, including the following recent transactions in which the firm served as Bond Counsel or Special Counsel:

1. \$12,065,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana – Jefferson Protection and Animal Welfare Services (JPAWS) Department, East Bank Animal Shelter Project) Revenue Bonds, Series 2023
2. \$1,400,000 Taxable Revenue Bonds, Series 2023 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana (LDNR Loan)
3. \$10,358,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Jefferson Culture and Parks Project) Revenue Bonds, Series 2022
4. \$180,780,000 Water Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2022 of Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2 of the Parish of Jefferson, Louisiana
5. \$94,785,000 Sewer Revenue Bonds, Series 2022 of Consolidated Sewerage District No. 1 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana
6. \$8,245,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Parc de Families Project) Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2020
7. \$3,270,000 Louisiana Local Government Environmental Facilities and Community Development Authority (Jefferson CPZ Beautification Project) Revenue and Refunding Bonds, Series 2020
8. \$52,635,000 Special Sales Tax Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2019A and \$227,365,000 Special Sales Tax Revenue Bonds Series 2019B
9. \$7,020,000 Eastbank Hotel Occupancy Tax Improvement and Refunding Bonds Series 2018 of the Parish of Jefferson, State of Louisiana
10. \$1,728,000 Taxable Revenue Bonds Series 2018 and \$3,270,000 Taxable Revenue Bonds Series 2018-2 of Jefferson Parish Consolidated Road Lighting

District

In connection with elections, the firm has served as legal counsel for numerous special elections, including the following recent elections:

1. 2022 Tax Elections – Jefferson Parish Consolidated Road Lighting District and Fire Protection District No. 5 Millages
2. 2021 Tax Elections – Consolidated Waterworks District No. 2, Consolidated Sewerage District No. 1, Jefferson Parish Special Services District, Parishwide Courts and Culture, Road Lighting District No. 7, Ambulance Service District No. 2 Millages; Old Metairie Security Enhancement District Annual Security Enhancement Tax
3. 2020 Tax Elections – Sale of Hospital Service District No. 2; Community Center and Playground District No. 16, Consolidated Garbage District No. 1, Eastbank Consolidated Special Service Fire Protection District, Inspector General Special Services Funding District, Plantation Estates Subdivision Special District, Fire Protection District No. 3 Millages
4. 2019 Tax Election – Timberlane Neighborhood Improvement and Beautification District Millage
5. 2018 Tax Elections – Fire Protection Districts No. 6, 7, 8, and 9, Juvenile Detention, Health Unit, and SELA Millages
6. 2017 Tax Elections – Fire Protection Districts No. 3 and 4, Parishwide Library, Parishwide Transit Millages
7. 2016 Tax Elections – 1% Special Sales and Use Tax of Jefferson Sales Tax District; Consolidated Drainage District No. 2 Millage; Consolidated Jefferson Recreation and Community Center and Playground District Millage

In connection with business transactions, the firm has served as legal counsel for the following transaction:

1. Loan of HOME Funds by Jefferson Parish to Charleston Homes through Community Development Department

Statement of Qualifications

AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF Louisiana

PARISH/COUNTY OF Jefferson

BEFORE ME, the undersigned authority, personally came and appeared: J. William Becknell, II, (Affiant) who after being by me duly sworn, deposed and said that he/she is the fully authorized President of The Becknell Law Firm, APLC (Entity), the party who submitted a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) to provide legal services (Briefly describe the services the SOQ will cover), to the Parish of Jefferson.

Affiant further said:

Campaign Contribution Disclosures

(Choose A or B, if option A is indicated please include the required attachment):

Choice A ☒

Attached hereto is a list of all campaign contributions, including the date and amount of each contribution, made to current or former elected officials of the Parish of Jefferson by Entity, Affiant, and/or officers, directors and owners, including employees, owning 25% or more of the Entity during the two-year period immediately preceding the date of this affidavit or the current term of the elected official, whichever is greater. Further, Entity, Affiant, and/or Entity Owners have not made any contributions to or in support of current or former members of the Jefferson Parish Council or the Jefferson Parish President through or in the name of another person or legal entity, either directly or indirectly.

Choice B ☐

there are NO campaign contributions made which would require disclosure under Choice A of this section.

Affiant further said:

Debt Disclosures

(Choose A or B, if option A is indicated please include the required attachment):

Choice A _____

Attached hereto is a list of all debts owed by the affiant to any elected or appointed official of the Parish of Jefferson, and any and all debts owed by any elected or appointed official of the Parish to the Affiant.

Choice B  _____

There are **NO** debts which would require disclosure under Choice A of this section.

Affiant further said:

Solicitation of Campaign Contribution Disclosures

(Choose A or B, if option A is indicated please include the required attachment):

Choice A _____

Attached hereto is a list of all elected officials of the Parish of Jefferson, whether still holding office at the time of the affidavit or not, where the elected official, individually, either by **telephone or by personal contact**, solicited a campaign contribution or other monetary consideration from the Entity, including the Entity's officers, directors and owners, and employees owning twenty-five percent (25%) or more of the Entity, during the two-year period immediately preceding the date the affidavit is signed. Further, to the extent known to the Affiant, the date of any such solicitation is included on the attached list.

Choice B  _____

there are **NO** solicitations for campaign contributions which would require disclosure under Choice A of this section.

Affiant further said:

Subcontractor Disclosures

(Choose A or B, if option A is indicated please include the required attachment):

Choice A _____

Affiant further said that attached is a listing of all subcontractors, excluding full time employees, who may assist in providing professional services for the aforementioned SOQ.

Choice B _____

There are **NO** subcontractors which would require disclosure under Choice A of this section.

Affiant further said:

That Affiant has employed no person, corporation, firm, association, or other organization, either directly or indirectly, to secure the public contract under which he received payment, other than persons regularly employed by the Affiant whose services in connection with the construction, alteration or demolition of the public building or project or in securing the public contract were in the regular course of their duties for Affiant; and

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

That no part of the contract price received by Affiant was paid or will be paid to any person, corporation, firm, association, or other organization for soliciting the contract, other than the payment of their normal compensation to persons regularly employed by the Affiant whose services in connection with the construction, alteration or demolition of the public building or project were in the regular course of their duties for Affiant.



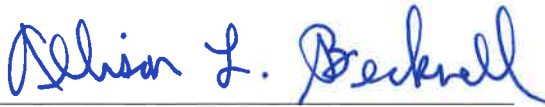
Signature of Affiant

J. William Becknell, II

Printed Name of Affiant

SWORN AND SUBSCRIBED TO BEFORE ME

ON THE 7th DAY OF June, 2024



Notary Public

Allison L. Becknell

Printed Name of Notary

LA Bar No. 30219

Notary/Bar Roll Number

My commission expires at my death

THE BECKNELL LAW FIRM
Political Contributions
—Jefferson Parish—

2022

Deano Bonano	\$ 500.00 (4/22/22)
Jennifer Van Vrancken	\$ 500.00 (4/27/22)
Ricky Templet	\$ 1,000.00 (8/10/22)

2023

Ricky Templet	\$ 500.00 (5/11/23)
Scott Walker	\$ 500.00 (5/15/23)
Jennifer Van Vrancken	\$1,000.00 (7/6/23)
Ricky Templet	\$ 2,000.00 (10/3/23)

As of 6/7/2024