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**RESPONSE TO THE
WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION'S
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
AND PROPOSAL
FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES**

**RFQ ISSUED: JUNE 22, 2015
SUBMITTAL DUE: JULY 10, 2015 – 4:00 P.M.**

**SUBMITTED BY REHON & ROBERTS, APC
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>REQUIRED ELEMENT</u>	<u>TAB NO.</u>
TRANSMITTAL LETTER.....	1
BACKGROUND INFORMATION.....	2
RELEVANT EXPERIENCE.....	3
REFERENCES	4
PROPOSED TIME COMMITMENT AND OVERALL COST OF SERVICES	5
MALPRACTICE INSURANCE; PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED DECISIONS; CERTIFICATION OF RESPONSE.....	6

TAB 1



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July 10, 2015

VIA HAND DELIVERY AND ELECTRONIC MAIL

Mr. Todd Groves, Board President (toddagroves@gmail.com)
West Contra Costa Unified School District
1108 Bissell Avenue
Richmond, CA 94801

Re: Response and Proposal of Rehon & Roberts, APC
to West Contra Costa Unified School District Request for Qualifications
for Special Counsel Services

RFQ Issued: June 22, 2015

Dear Mr. Groves:

Rehon & Roberts, APC hereby transmits its response and proposal to the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education's Request for Qualifications for Special Counsel Services issued on June 22, 2015.

Rehon & Roberts, APC (the "Firm") was founded in 1996 and serves and has served a diverse range of clients, including school districts and other public education institutions, municipalities, and non-profit organizations as well as banks and other financial institutions, major developers and Fortune 50 companies. As described in this submittal, we believe that Rehon & Roberts, its diverse client base, and the broad experience of our attorneys makes the firm uniquely suited to meet the special counsel needs of the Board of Education as outlined in the Request for Qualifications. The firm has extensive experience in representing school districts in connection with the implementation and oversight of public bond programs including extraordinary audits and investigations of allegations of wrong-doing, conflicts of interest and misuse of public funds. The firm's private sector practice also includes prosecution and defense of complex civil claims involving fraud and financial wrong-doing, coordination of litigation with on-going criminal investigations and prosecutions, and use of forensic investigators and accountants and other financial consultants and experts.



Mr. Todd Groves, Board President
West Contra Costa Unified School District
June 10, 2015
Page 2

If selected, and with the consent of the Board of Education, the firm would designate Rogelio M. Ruiz as lead to provide the special counsel services outlined by the Board of Education. The firm and Mr. Ruiz have a demonstrated commitment and capability of developing long-term positive relationships with Board Members built on trust and open communication, and Mr. Ruiz meets the qualifications for the services outlined.

We look forward to an opportunity to meet with the Subcommittee and/or the Board of Education and to responding to any questions or concerns which you have.

Sincerely,

REHON & ROBERTS
A Professional Corporation

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Peter M. Rehon".

Peter M. Rehon

Enclosure

TAB 2

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Rehon & Roberts, APC is an AV-rated law firm located at 830 The Alameda in San Jose, California. The firm was founded in 1996 and serves and has served a diverse range of clients, including school districts, municipalities, the County Office of Education and non-profit organizations as well as banks and other financial institutions, major developers and Fortune 50 companies. As a result of the firm's diverse client base, the firm is uniquely suited to meet the special counsel needs of the Board of Education as outlined in the Request for Qualifications.

As described herein, the firm and its attorneys represents school districts and has advised governing boards in connection with bond construction programs including public contracting and contracting practices, investigation of complaints relating to contracting practices, development of Board Policies and Administrative Regulations for the implementation of best contracting practices and internal controls, Proposition 39 compliance, and audit issues. The firm has also represented governing boards and districts in investigations in connection with allegations of misuse of public funds, conflicts of interest, and also in connection with the negotiation of professional consultant agreements including program management and construction management agreements.

The firm's banking and financial institutions practice also gives the firm and its attorneys unique and extensive experience and expertise in complex financial and accounting litigation involving allegations and claims of fraud and financial mismanagement. The firm is frequently engaged to prosecute or defend claims of fraud or financial mismanagement involving complex forensic analysis. The firm and its attorneys frequently retain and work with forensic investigators, accountants and auditors on a consulting and/or retained expert basis to assist in the prosecution or defense of clients' cases. On that basis, the firm and its attorneys have extensive experience in forensic accounting issues, in analyzing legal issues surrounding accounting and contracting issues and practices, and in coordinating and working with forensic investigators and accountants.

The firm proposes that attorney Rogelio M. Ruiz will serve as Special Counsel to the Board of Education on behalf of the firm to carry out the purposes of the proposed engagement.

Mr. Ruiz has been in practice and a member of the California State Bar in good standing since 1990. He is admitted to practice before all California State courts, the Federal District Courts for the Northern, Southern, Eastern and Central Districts of California, and before the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Ruiz's legal practice focuses on the representation of school districts and throughout the last 10 years he has represented some of the largest public school districts and public education bodies in Santa Clara County.

Mr. Ruiz currently serves as Legal Counsel to the East Side Union High School District and the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District and, in that role, provides legal representation and guidance to those districts and their respective Governing Boards. Each of those school districts has large on-going bond construction programs for which Mr. Ruiz provides representation and guidance on contracting and contracting practices, audit issues and Proposition 39 and regulatory requirements and compliance. East Side Union High School District's bond programs include Measure G (\$298,000,000, voter-approved in 2002), Measure E (\$349,000,000, voter-approved in 2008), Measure I (\$120,000,000, voter-approved in 2012), and Technology Bond Measure I (\$113,000,000, voter-approved in 2014). Alum Rock Union Elementary School District's bond program currently includes its Measure G bond program in the amount of \$179,000,000 and which was approved by that District's voters in 2008.

Mr. Ruiz's detailed resumé is included at the end of this Section.

To the extent necessary and appropriate, Mr. Ruiz would be supported and assisted in this engagement by Peter M. Rehon, and other firm staff. Mr. Rehon received his law degree in 1981 from Hastings College of the Law where he was the Senior Articles Editor for the Constitutional Law Quarterly. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of California at Santa Cruz.

Mr. Rehon has extensive experience representing clients in complex civil fraud actions involving the intersection of federal criminal investigations and involving the Securities Exchange Commission, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Department of the Treasury, and the Department of Justice, as well as multi-party civil actions against clients and insurance disputes which arise therefrom. Most recently, Mr. Rehon represented many of the victims in complex civil fraud actions arising out of the investment fraud perpetrated by Samuel Mouli Cohen between 2002 and 2008 (coordinated civil actions, San Francisco County Superior Court, *Mills v. Cohen*, Case No. CGC 09-486708, and coordinated and consolidated cases). Mr. Rehon defended many of the victims in the civil actions which arose from the fraud, and also worked closely with the FBI, Department of the Treasury, and the U.S. Attorneys' Office to obtain Mr. Cohen's conviction in *United States v. Cohen*, case number CR-10-00547-001-CRB (N.D.Cal) which is more particularly described in *U.S. v. Cohen*, 734 F.3d 878 (9th Cir. 2013). With the assistance of Mr. Rehon's clients, Mr. Cohen was convicted and sentenced to 22 years in federal prison.

Mr. Rehon represented one of the principal banks involved in the fraud actions arising out of the collapse of Century Loan Mortgage Company in 1994. (See *Kaffer v. Herpick* (1998) Cal. Ct. Appeal, Sixth App. Dist., case no. H016525.) Mr. Rehon also represented two of the principal lenders to Technical

Equities in the trial court in fraud actions arising out of the collapse of Technical Equities Corporation in 1990. (*In re Technical Equities Coordinated Proceeding*, Santa Clara Superior Court (1988)). The underlying litigation is described in various appellate decisions, including *Bank of the West v. Valley National Bank*, 41 F. 3d 471 (9th Cir. 1994), *Helfand v. National Union Fire Insurance Co.*, 10 Cal.App.4th 869 (1992) and *Chatton v. National Union Fire Insurance Co.*, 10 Cal.App.4th 846 (1992).



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Rogelio M. Ruíz

PRIMARY AREAS OF PRACTICE:

Extensive experience in governance and organization counseling for public and private sector clients;

Represents school districts and other public bodies and agencies and non-profits in governance issues, public contracting, public works and construction, construction disputes and litigation, facilities planning and issues, and real property acquisitions and dispositions;

Counsels school district clients on all aspects of public employment issues, contract issues, student discipline, and Education Code and Brown Act issues;

Represents and counsels public and private clients in labor and employment matters, including collective bargaining (Chief Labor Negotiator for a public school district for over three years), impasse and fact-finding, and represent public employers in connection with Unfair Labor Practice charges (PERB), and claims and litigation involving harassment and discrimination under federal and state laws;

Counsels clients in issues involving employee performance, discipline and termination, and in conducting workplace investigations relating to alleged workplace harassment, discrimination, violence and conflict, and employee misconduct.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Mr. Ruíz has been a licensed member of the California State Bar in good standing for almost 25 years. Mr. Ruíz practices with an emphasis in education and public law. Mr. Ruiz has been legal counsel to two of the largest public school districts in Santa Clara County for more than ten years. Mr. Ruíz also has in-house counsel experience. He served as Senior Counsel with Safeway Inc. in Pleasanton, California where he was responsible for negotiating and overseeing all real estate acquisitions, leasing, dispositions and shopping center development and construction for all supermarket, warehouse and manufacturing operations throughout Southern California and Southern Nevada for The Vons Companies, Inc., Safeway's largest operating division. He also managed and oversaw outside counsel in all real estate transactions and real estate and construction related litigation by or pending against The Vons Companies, Inc. Mr. Ruíz was responsible for renegotiating outside counsel engagements and reduced outside counsel costs under his direct authority by more than fifty percent. Mr. Ruíz began his legal career with O'Melveny & Myers from 1990 – 1997 where he practiced in complex litigation matters including class action defense, patent litigation and environmental insurance coverage defense.



BAR MEMBERSHIP:

Mr. Ruíz was admitted to the Bar in December 1990 and he has been a member of the California State Bar in good standing since December 1990.

EDUCATION:

University of Michigan Law School, Ann Arbor, Michigan
Associate Editor, *Michigan Journal of International Law*
Juris Doctor, May 1990

University of California, Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California
Bachelor of Arts, Economics, 1986

University of Lund, Sweden
June 1984 – June 1985
Course of Study: Economics; Economies of Developing Nations

Cal Poly – San Luis Obispo, San Luis Obispo, California
August 1981 – June 1983
Course of Study: Architecture

TAB 3

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Describe overall experience in providing services to school districts and other governmental agencies.

The firm currently serves as Legal Counsel to the East Side Union High School District and the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, and their respective governing boards. In that role we have successfully represented those districts in a variety of matters relating to nearly all aspects of school district operations (not including special education services or representation). Within the larger Bay Area, the firm and its attorneys have also previously served as special counsel to the City of Redwood City, the Santa Clara Valley Water District, the San Jose Evergreen Community College District, Foothill/DeAnza Community College District and the Santa Clara County Board of Education in matters relating to employment, employment litigation, collective bargaining, construction, facilities and real property acquisition and dispositions.

In the role of Legal Counsel to governing boards we have advised and trained governing boards on Brown Act issues and compliance, we have provided conflict of interest trainings under the Political Reform Act and other applicable state conflict of interest laws and principles, and we regularly review and provide legal opinions on conflict of interest issues. We also regularly provide trainings in the area of employment compliance matters (e.g., sexual harassment training and employee discipline) and in student discipline processes.

The firm's practice also includes representing school districts in nearly all aspects of school district operations including contract negotiation, review and administration, Board governance issues, real property matters, charter school facilities and oversight matters, and labor negotiations and employment matters.

The firm has also represented school districts in connection with the construction of new school facilities, and in the acquisition and disposition of real property.

As Legal Counsel to the East Side Union High School District, Mr. Ruiz attends all closed and open session meetings of the Governing Board. Mr. Ruiz is also currently Chief Labor Negotiator for the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, as designated by that District's Governing Board.

The firm is sensitive to the unique legal and budgetary issues facing public schools. Our firm is located in a single office in San Jose, California, which allows us to serve our clients in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Our attorneys are all residents of the South Bay and East Bay area and as a result our firm and our attorneys have long been members of the Bay Area education community. As a consequence we do not have to support attorneys and office

overhead in multiple offices in different cities and we are able to pass on the cost-efficiencies to our clients. Our attorneys have represented clients in Federal District Court, State Superior Court, before the State Allocation Board, and in arbitrations, disciplinary administrative hearings, hearings before the Public Employment Relations Board, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the State of California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the State of California Labor Commissioner (regarding alleged Labor Code violations) and the State of California Employment Development Department (unemployment hearings).

Describe recent experience in advising school districts in financial and bond program areas.

Mr. Ruiz has represented and counseled a school district whose bond contracting practices were the subject of investigation and audit by the County Office of Education and subsequent Extraordinary Audit by the Fiscal Crisis & Management Advisory Team (FCMAT). The COE and FCMAT audits were prompted by an anonymous complaint to the COE regarding certain alleged contracting practices. The firm and Mr. Ruiz have assisted the district in responding to the audits and audit findings and recommendations, in revising Board Policies and Administrative Regulations, in the immediate review and cessation of questionable district practices, in the preparation and implementation of revised contracting and financial internal controls, and in the creation of a new district Audit Committee and in the drafting of the Committee charter for Board approval.

Mr. Ruiz regularly counsels and advises school district clients in connection with the preparation by independent auditors of required financial and performance audits of bond programs and other audits. In that regard, Mr. Ruiz has extensive experience in reviewing draft and final audit reports and in working with auditors to review and responding to audit exceptions.

Mr. Ruiz has provided Brown Act training and other legal support to statutorily mandated Bond Oversight Committees, including legal analyses relating to the lawful use of bond monies and disposition of State matching funds insurance proceeds.

The firm represents school district clients in connection with the preparation and negotiation of bond program management and construction management agreements, disputes with program and construction managers relating to the performance and/or administration of such contracts and billing practices under such agreements. Mr. Ruiz has also conducted confidential investigations relating to public contracting practices including alleged conflicts of interest, allegations of over-billing, false claims allegations, and allegations of public corruption, including the reporting and disclosure of suspect practices to

local law enforcement agencies. The firm has also represented clients in construction disputes arising from bond-funded construction projects.

The firm is not bond counsel and therefore it does not represent school districts or other public bodies in connection with the issuance of bonds.

Describe and experience in facilitating the work of auditing firms.

In connection with the above-mentioned FCMAT Extraordinary Audit, Mr. Ruiz acted as a liaison for the district to the FCMAT audit team to ensure full and timely access by FCMAT to district records and information and to respond to additional inquiries by FCMAT auditors regarding district practices and records. As already noted, Mr. Ruiz has extensive experience in reviewing draft and final audit reports and in working with auditors to review and responding to audit exceptions.

In its litigation practice the firm frequently consults with and retains forensic investigators and accountants in matters relating to financial and accounting fraud. The firm will provide the names of private forensic investigators and consultant references upon request.

TAB 4

REFERENCES

Rehon & Roberts, APC provides the following list of business related references:

1. **Frank Biehl**, Governing Board Member, East Side Union High School District, 830 North Capitol Avenue, San Jose, California 95133. Mr. Biehl is also currently Chair of the District's Audit Committee.

Tele: (408) 223-2330

Relationship: Rogelio M. Ruiz has served as Legal Counsel for the East Side Union High School District and its Governing Board from November 2004 to the present, and advises the District and the Governing Board on the District's bond program including contracting practices and compliance with Prop. 39.

2. **Andres Quintero**, Governing Board Member, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, 2930 Gay Avenue, San Jose, California 95127. Mr. Quintero is also a Member of the Citizens Bond Oversight Committee for the East Side Union High School District.

Tele: (408) 823-9842

Relationship: The Firm including Mr. Ruiz has served as Legal Counsel to the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District and its Governing Board from October 2009 to the present, and advises the District and the Governing Board on the District's bond program including contracting practices and compliance with Prop. 39.

3. **Hilaria Bauer, Ed.D.**, Superintendent, Alum Rock Union Elementary School District, 2930 Gay Avenue, San Jose, California 95127.

Tele: (408) 928-6822

Relationship: The Firm including Mr. Ruiz has served as Legal Counsel to the Alum Rock Union Elementary School District from October 2009 to the present, and advises the District and the Governing Board on the District's bond program including contracting practices and compliance with Prop. 39.

4. **Craig Mann**, San Jose Evergreen Community College District, 40 S. Market Street, San Jose, California 95113. Mr. Mann previously served on the Governing Board of the Santa Clara County Board of Education (2006-2012) and also on the Governing Board of the East Side Union High School District.

Tele: (408) 513-4096

Relationship: The firm and Mr. Ruiz served as counsel to the Santa Clara County Board of Education and the East Side Union High School District Board during Mr. Mann's tenure as an elected Board Member on each of those bodies.

TAB 5

PROPOSED TIME COMMITMENT AND OVERALL COST OF SERVICES

The firm proposes a blended rate of \$265 per hour for the time of any attorney whose service may be required with this engagement. The firm's Legal Assistant will be billed at the rate of \$95 per hour. The firm will not charge or bill for facsimile transmissions, routine copying, staff over-time, or long distance telephone charges. The firm will not bill for mileage for travel between the firm's San Jose office and the District office or any District school site. Other incidental charges such as filing fees, messenger and delivery services, postage and non-routine copying by outside vendors would be passed through to the District. The firm will itemize all such costs on each monthly statement as incurred.

The time required to complete the requested engagement will ultimately depend on a number of factors including but not limited to any additional facts that may develop and the findings in the forensic audit. Nevertheless, the firm provides the following preliminary estimate of time and compensation based on the scope provided within the RFQ:

General Task Description	Estimated Attorney Time	Estimated Fee
A. Compile a list of competent audit firms with a history and capacity to perform a forensic investigation of school district financial, operations and management issues.	7 - 10 hours	\$1,855 - \$2,650
B. Gather appropriate background information on those firms.	2 - 4 hours	\$530 - \$1,060
C. Work with a subcommittee of the Board to narrow the list of qualified audit firms to identify a group of three to five firms that could be interviewed either by a subcommittee of Board members or the full Board in a public meeting.	2 – 5 hours	\$530 - \$1,325
D. Review the employee complaint from a legal perspective to determine if government statute, regulation or Board Policy had been violated. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Review/analyze employee complaint and supporting documentation and applicable contracts •Interview complainant •Interview other witnesses (if necessary) •Review applicable Board Policies and District Administrative Regulations •Draft legal findings 	75 – 120 hours	\$19,875 - \$31,800
E. Assist the audit firm in combining the findings from the forensic audit with a report of legal findings to the Board of Education.	25 – 40 hours	\$6,625 – \$10,600
Total Estimated Time and Fee Range (Not-To-Exceed)	111 – 179 hours	\$29,415 - \$47,435

TAB 6

THE FIRM'S MALPRACTICE INSURANCE

The firm hereby certifies that our professional liability policy is a claims-made policy with PSIC Insurance Company. Our limits of liability are \$2 million per claim and \$2 million aggregate. The effective dates of coverage are from March 18, 2015 through March 18, 2016, 12:01 AM Standard Time.

PUBLISHED AND UNPUBLISHED TRIAL AND APPELLATE COURT DECISIONS

Published Trial and Appellate Court Decisions

The following is a representative list of published trial and appellate decisions in which the Firm's attorneys have been involved:

Bank of America v. Karelin (In re Karelin) (9th Cir.BAP 1990) 109 B.R.943 (representing plaintiff Bank of America at trial).

Bank of America v. Salinas Nissan, Inc. (1989) 207 Cal.App.3d 260 [254 Cal.Rptr.748] (representing plaintiff and respondent Bank of America).

Billmeyer v. Plaza Bank of Commerce (1995) 42 Cal.App.4th 1086 [50 Cal.Rptr.2d 119] (representing defendants and respondents Plaza Bank of Commerce and Pamela G. Bogle).

Bily v. Arthur Young & Company (1992) 3 Cal.4th 370 [11 Cal.Rptr.2d 51] (representing amicus curiae California Bankers Association).

Great American First Savings Bank v. Bayside Developers (1991) 232 Cal.App.3d 1546 [284 Cal.Rptr. 194], ordered decertified (March 12, 1992) (representing party seeking decertification, California Bankers Association).

In re Albert Hakim (Bk. N.D. Cal. 1997) 212 B.R. 632 (representing debtor Albert Hakim).

Marchbrook Building Company v. Soucek (2003) 112 Cal.App.4th 315 [4 Cal.Rptr.3d 874] (Cal. Sup. Ct. denied review and ordered case depublished) (representing appellant Marchbrook Building Company in successfully obtaining reversal of demurrer)

In re Rufener Construction, Inc. (9th Cir. 1995) 53 F.3d 1004 (representing Chapter 7 Trustee).

Title Insurance Company of Minnesota v. Comerica Bank-California (1994) 27 Cal.App. 4th 800 [32 Cal.Rptr.2d 735] (representing defendant and respondent Comerica Bank-California).

Transamerica Title Insurance Company v. Superior Court (1987) 188 Cal.App.3d 1047 [233 Cal Rptr. 825] (representing plaintiff and real party interest Bank of the West).

Variable-Parameter Fixture Development Corporation v. Comerica Bank - California (In re Morpheus Lights, Inc.) (Bk.N.D. Cal. 1998) 228 B.R. 449 (representing defendant Comerica Bank-California).

Unpublished Trial and Appellate Court Decisions

The following is a representative list of unpublished appellate decisions in which the Firm's attorneys have been involved:

Ferre v. Ferre (2005) First DCA No. A104704 (representing plaintiff and respondent Henry Ferre in elder abuse and fraud case as co-counsel on appeal; judgment in favor of Henry Ferre affirmed).

Frog Creek Partners, LLC v. Vance Brown, Inc. (2006) First DCA No. A111059 (representing plaintiff and respondent Frog Creek Partners, LLC in breach of contract and fraud action involving general contractor's attempt to enforce arbitration clause and avoid a trial by jury; order denying motion to compel arbitration in favor of Frog Creek affirmed).

Kaffer v. Herpick (1998) Sixth DCA No. H016525 (representing defendants and respondents Comerica Bank California and Pacific Western Bank in fraud and conspiracy class action arising out of the Century Loan Corporation fraud; judgment in favor of the Banks affirmed).

In re Rasmussen (1994) N.D.Cal. Case No. C-94-0180 [1994 WL 284971] (representing secured creditors and respondents in action to obtain sanctions against Debtors and their counsel for abuse of the bankruptcy system in attempting to stop Creditors' foreclosure and unlawful detainer; sanctions affirmed on appeal).

Reedy v. Sasser (1998) Third DCA No. C026950 (representing defendant and respondent Grupe Development Associates in breach of contract action; judgment in favor of Grupe Development Associates affirmed).

Scott v. Taylor (1994) Sixth DCA No. H009720, review denied (representing defendant and respondent CityTeam Ministries in appeal challenging the right of the City of San Jose to provide redevelopment funds to a faith-based homeless shelter under the Establishment Clause and Equal Protection Clause of the U.S. Constitution; judgment in favor of CityTeam Ministries affirmed).

REHON & ROBERTS'
CERTIFICATION REGARDING ITS RESPONSE TO
THE WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
BOARD OF EDUCATION'S
REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
FOR THE FURNISHING OF SPECIAL COUNSEL SERVICES

I certify the contents of Rehon & Roberts' Response to the West Contra Costa Unified School District Board of Education's RFQ for Special Counsel Services. The firm has not previously represented the West Contra Costa Unified School District or its Board of Education and, to the best of my knowledge, has no prior work that could in any way be interpreted as creating a conflict of interest. I further certify that I am authorized to commit Rehon & Roberts to the proposal submitted.



Signature

Peter M. Rehon

Typed or Printed Name

Shareholder
Title

Rehon & Roberts, APC

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7/10/2015

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