



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General

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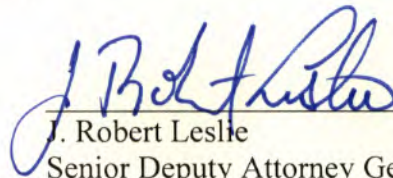
**WRITTEN DETERMINATION REGARDING THE
APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL ON BEHALF OF
THE OFFICE OF THE WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY GENERAL**

The Office of the West Virginia Attorney General (hereinafter "WVAGO") is seeking the assistance of outside counsel to provide legal assistance with antitrust legal matters. More specifically, the WVAGO seeks counsel to assist staff with the investigation and review of potential violations of state antitrust statutes, related legal matters, and pending litigation stemming from the creation of the Charleston Gazette-Mail as the sole successor daily newspaper to the Charleston Gazette and the Charleston Daily Mail.

In accordance with the Attorney General's Policy on Outside Counsel (Policy #WVAGO-004), the Office of the Attorney General has determined that it is both cost-effective and in the interest of the public to appoint outside counsel to assist with the legal matters in question, based on the following factors:

- The matter at issue requires particular and specialized expertise in complex issues relating to antitrust laws that would benefit from the assistance of outside counsel.
- Kanawha and Putnam Counties are the primary geographic area where the legal services will be performed.
- It is not feasible or cost-effective for the Office of the Attorney General to provide the requested legal services without the assistance of outside counsel at this time.

Accordingly, the Attorney General authorizes the appointment of outside counsel in the current legal matter pursuant to commencement of the request for proposal process laid out in subsection (D) of Policy #WVAGO-004.


J. Robert Leslie
Senior Deputy Attorney General

Date Signed: October 1, 2015