



State of West Virginia
Office of the Attorney General

Patrick Morrissey
Attorney General

(304) 558-2021
Fax (304) 558-0140

**WRITTEN DETERMINATION REGARDING THE
APPOINTMENT OF OUTSIDE COUNSEL ON BEHALF
OF THE WEST VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**

The West Virginia Department of Commerce, through its Division of Natural Resources, has requested legal representation to assist the Department with a review and analysis of miscellaneous oil and gas issues.

Pursuant to the written determination issued on September 5, 2014, the Office of the Attorney General determined that it was both cost-effective and in the interest of the public to appoint outside counsel to assist the Department of Commerce with the needed legal services. A Request for Proposal (RFP # 028) was issued in accordance with Section (D) of the Attorney General's Policy on Outside Counsel (Policy #WVAGO-004).

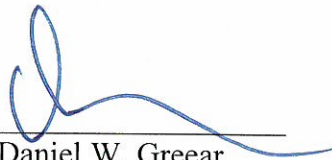
As of the September 10, 2014, deadline for proposals, the Office of the Attorney General received one timely proposal for legal services. However, a subsequent conflict of interest check has precluded the bidding law firm from handling the legal matter in question.

Given the time-sensitive nature of the legal services in question and the lack of sufficient bidders for the proposed legal services, the Office of the Attorney General has determined – in accordance with the Attorney General's Policy on Outside Counsel and in consultation with the Department of Commerce – that it is both cost-effective and in the interest of the public to appoint the Law Office of Larry W. George, PLLC to serve as outside counsel for the legal matter in question, based on the following factors:

- The Department of Commerce seeks to commence the legal services in question as soon as possible, with a review and analysis of many of the issues in question needed within the next several weeks.
- The Law Office of Larry W. George possesses the requisite skills and expertise in oil and gas law to handle the legal matter in question.

- The Law Office of Larry W. George possesses the requisite experience, staffing and support to handle the scope of the legal matter in question, and can perform the legal services in the time frame needed.
- The Law Office of Larry W. George is located in the geographic area (Kanawha County) where most of the legal services are to be performed.
- The Law Office of Larry W. George appears to be in compliance with all applicable laws of the State of West Virginia, and has not been subject to reprimand by the West Virginia State Bar, or other entities, for unethical conduct.
- The Law Office of Larry W. George is willing to assist the Department of Commerce with the needed legal services at a rate of \$280 per hour.

Because this matter requires time-sensitive legal services that cannot be adequately handled by the Office of the Attorney General, and for which insufficient time now exists to complete another competitive bidding process, the Office of the Attorney General authorizes the appointment of the Law Office of Larry W. George to serve as outside counsel for the legal matters cited herein pursuant to Section (D)(1) of Policy #WVAGO-004.



Daniel W. Greear
Chief Counsel

Date Signed: September 16, 2014