



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 WEST VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY**

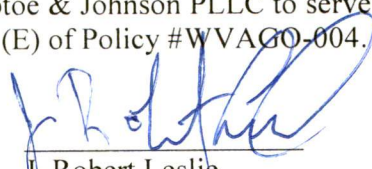
West Virginia State University ("WVSU") is in need of legal representation to assist with pending litigation relating to an environmental contamination issue stemming from the disposal of waste in Michigan. More specifically, WVSU is seeking assistance in the case of *Michigan Department of Environmental Quality v. Yale University et al.*, Case No.: 15-126-CE, currently pending the Circuit Court for the 30th Judicial Circuit, Ingham County.

Pursuant to the written determination issued April 9, 2015, the Office of the Attorney General determined it was both cost-effective and in the interest of the public to appoint outside counsel to assist WVSU with the needed legal services. A request for proposal (RFP #32) was issued in accordance with Section (D) of the Attorney General's Policy on Outside Counsel (Policy #WVAGO-004).

In response to the request for proposal, the Office of the Attorney General received six proposals for legal services. After reviewing the proposals, the Office has determined that the appointment of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC is appropriate based upon the following facts:

- Steptoe & Johnson has the requisite skills and expertise needed to handle the legal matter in question;
- Steptoe & Johnson employs individuals with the required licenses to provide legal services in the jurisdiction in which this legal matter is currently pending (Ingham County, Michigan);
- Under Steptoe & Johnson's proposal, the needed legal services will be provided at competitive rates;
- Steptoe & Johnson's proposal is responsive to WVSU's needs, and of those who submitted proposals, is WVSU's preferred counsel for this matter.

Based on the factors set forth above, and in consultation with WVSU, the Office of the Attorney General authorizes the appointment of Steptoe & Johnson PLLC to serve as outside counsel for the legal matters cited herein pursuant to Section (E) of Policy #WVAGO-004.


J. Robert Leslie
Senior Deputy Attorney General

Date Signed: April 28, 2015