

## EXHIBIT A

### CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES TO CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS

This Contract is made by and between Marion County, Texas (“County”), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, and Craig Fletcher, State Bar No.00792506 (“Attorney”) on the 27th day of November 2023. The purpose of this agreement is for the County to provide legal services to indigent defendants in the Criminal Courts of Marion County. Attorney has agreed to provide all services requested, except for those hereinafter described.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. Term. The term of this Contract shall be for twelve (12) months, beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024, unless sooner terminated as set forth herein.
2. Compensation. Attorney will receive the sum of \$6,666.66 per month, for a total of \$80,000.00 for the term of the contract (unless the Contract is terminated sooner). A check payment will be made twice a month in direct correlation with Commissioners Court which is typically the second and last Mondays of each month for twelve months. Attorney shall submit an itemized fee voucher to the appointing authority for approval prior to being forwarded to the financial officer for payment.
3. Case Load. Attorney(s) may handle up to a maximum of 242 cases per year (i.e., a maximum of 100 felonies, 125 misdemeanors, 12 juvenile cases, and 5 appeals). If the total volume of cases requires that Attorney(s) be appointed to handle more than 242 cases a year, Attorney(s) will be compensated for work on such extra cases at the rate of one and one-half times the normal rate for indigent defense cases in each respective county, or the reasonable fee that the presiding judge finds by order to be appropriate. In these cases, the Attorney(s) must present a form listing the time spent on each case, together with the activities for which the time was incurred, to the presiding judge for approval.
4. Expense Reimbursement. Attorney(s) may receive reimbursement for reasonable and necessary expenses, including expenses for investigation, and other experts, consistent with Texas Code of Criminal Procedure art. 26.05(d), and travel outside of Marion County, separate from the Attorney’s compensation. Travel expenses (mileage, etc.), are eligible for reimbursement in accordance with Marion County’s policy on travel reimbursement for employees. All expenses to be reimbursed must be itemized in writing, supported by invoices and/or vouchers, and submitted to the presiding judge for approval.
5. Independent Contractor. Attorney(s) are not an employee of the County, and is, at most, an independent contractor, who shall complete the requirements of this Contract by Attorney’s own means and methods of work, and in accordance with the Attorney’s

professional legal judgment, which shall be in the exclusive charge and control of the Attorney, and is not subject to control or supervision of the County or any judge, except as specified in this Contract. THE DEFENDANT IS YOUR CLIENT – NOT THE COUNTY. YOU MUST PROVIDE COMPETENT, ZEALOUS LEGAL SERVICES TO EACH CLIENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE TEXAS DISCIPLINARY RULES OF PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT AND THE TEXAS CODE OF CRIMINAL PROCEDURE.

6. Standard of Performance.

- (a) Attorney(s) will provide all services required by Senate Bill 7 as passed by the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature in 2001. (As it amends the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures).
- (b) Attorney(s) shall provide competent, zealous legal services to each client in a professional, skilled manner consistent with the Attorney's responsibilities under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (c) Attorney(s) shall ensure continuity of representation of the client unless relieved or replaced in accordance with art. 26.04(j)(2) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.
- (d) Attorney(s) shall not assign, subcontract or delegate any part of the services to be provided by the Attorney(s) under this Contract.
- (e) Attorney(s) must submit a monthly progress report to be approved by the Marion County Judge prior to any payment being made under this Contract, in accordance with art. 26.05 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The report must include the number of cases disposed of in the previous month and the types of cases (adult felony, adult misdemeanor, and juvenile) as well as the number of cases currently open and assigned by the courts. The County Judge may require other information, which is necessary and relevant, and may confer with the presiding judge on any case.
- (f) Attorney must present by October 15 each year, an annual percentage of the attorney's practice time that was dedicated to work based on appointments accepted in the county for the preceding year from October 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>.
- (g) Attorney(s) must maintain the minimum qualifications to practice law in the state of Texas, and must immediately inform the County Judge of any change in the status of the Attorney's licensure. The Attorney(s) must provide the County with proof of licensure in good standing upon request. Attorney's qualifications shall equal or exceed the qualifications provided in the indigent defense procedures

adopted pursuant to Article 26.04, Code of Criminal Procedure, including in Marion County's Indigent Defense Plans.

- (h) Attorney(s) agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Marion County from any and all claims rising from the delivery of professional services under this contract.
- (i) Attorney(s) must report to the County Auditor the number of continuing legal education hours completed. Attorneys must complete at least 6 hours of continuing legal education pertaining to juvenile law during each 12-month reporting period or be currently certified in juvenile law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Attorneys must complete at least 6 hours of continuing legal education pertaining to criminal law during each 12-month reporting period or be currently certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
- (j) Attorney(s) shall maintain the ability to receive facsimile correspondence twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week.
- (k) Attorney(s) must provide quality, effective legal assistance and representation to clients to whom Attorney is assigned.
- (l) Attorney(s) shall complete all cases once representation is commenced during the term of the contract, unless the attorney is relieved or replaced in accordance with Article 26.04(j)(2), Code of Criminal Procedure. Attorney(s) will be compensated for these uncompleted cases on a case-by-case basis according to the SB7 approved plan.
- (m) Attorney is prohibited from accepting any payments from a client or third party for legal services provided in a case assigned under this contract
- (n) Attorney is prohibited from releasing confidential attorney-client information or work product related to any case covered by this contract, except when authorized by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
- (o) Trial and appearance dockets will be set after consultation with attorney(s). Attorney(s) are required to attend all appearance and trial dockets unless approval is sought from the Court at least fourteen (14) days prior to the docket. Failure to attend any docket absent Court approval will result in a financial sanction of \$1,000.00 and will be considered a material breach of this contract.
- (p) Contract attorney(s), upon resignation from their contract position, are expected to continue representation of appointed clients as of the date of resignation. In the event that attorney no longer wishes to represent such appointed client, the attorney must reimburse the County \$250.00 per client to defray the cost of new appointed counsel.

7. Conflict. In the event of a conflict of interest between Attorney and any defendant, Attorney shall present evidence to the court in which the case is pending, and if ordered by the Judge presiding, be allowed to withdraw from representation in that case. Such withdrawal shall not affect the other terms of this agreement.
  
8. Termination. This Contract may be terminated by the County for good cause, with the approval of the majority of the County and District Judges serving Marion County. If a reason for termination is found to exist by any of the judges or the program director, written notice will be given to Attorney, and a private meeting will be held with the Attorney and judges present to discuss the relevant issues, and, thereafter, the judges will vote on the termination of Attorney's contract.
  - (a) County may terminate this agreement if Attorney(s) closes his active office.
  - (b) County may terminate this agreement if Attorney(s) fails to perform the duties required by this agreement. Such failure must be supported by judicial findings of that failure.
  - (c) Attorney(s) may terminate this agreement if County fails to make timely payments hereunder.
  - (d) Attorney(s) may terminate this agreement if, for reasons beyond the control of Attorney(s), Attorney is unable to perform the duties required hereunder.
  - (e) This agreement may be mutually terminated for any force majeure or any change in the law, which makes the agreement moot.
  
9. Administration. The District Judges and the Marion County Judge will provide oversight and monitoring to assure that Attorney(s) performs as required under this Contract. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as creating a right or remedy against the County, the Marion County Judge, or the District Judges on the part of any person.
  
10. Disputes. Venue of any proceeding arising under or with regard to this Contract shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Marion County.
  
11. Additional Terms and Conditions.
  - (a) The cases to be handled under this Agreement shall be non-capital murder cases in which the death penalty is sought. The appointments hereunder may include juvenile cases.
  - (b) Attorney(s) will be responsible for three different categories of cases in County and District Court, which include appeals:

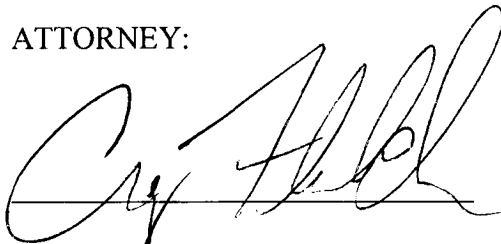
Level One. Felonies

Level Two. Misdemeanors

Level Three. Juveniles

- (c) A determination that Attorney(s) has given false information in the materials submitted to the County in response to the Request for Qualifications will be grounds for immediate cancellation of this Agreement under the procedures set forth above.
- (d) Falsification of any report, invoice, billing documentation or other submission by the Attorney(s) will be grounds for immediate cancellation of this Agreement under the procedures set forth above. In addition, such could subject the Attorney(s) to both professional discipline and criminal prosecution. Therefore, it is very important that submissions be thorough and truthful.
- (e) Attorney(s) will be provided with on-line access to West Law.

ATTORNEY:



Craig Fletcher  
Attorney at Law  
203 West Austin St  
Marshall, Tx 75670  
craig@craigfletcherlaw.com  
903-503-7676 phone  
903-503-7680 fax

COUNTY:



COUNTY JUDGE  
Marion County  
102 W Austin, Room 205  
Jefferson, TX 75657  
903-665-3261 phone  
903-665-8732 fax

Date:

12/4/2023

Date:

11-27-2023

**CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES  
TO CRIMINAL DEFENDANTS DUE TO  
INDIGENT ATTORNEY CONFLICT**

This Contract is made by and between Marion County, Texas (“County”), a political subdivision of the State of Texas, and Brandon Winn State Bar No. 24070866 (“Attorney”) on the 27th day of November 2023. The purpose of this agreement is for the County to provide legal services to indigent defendants in the Criminal Courts of Marion County. Attorney has agreed to provide all services requested, except for those hereinafter described.

NOW, THEREFORE, the parties agree as follows:

1. Term. The term of this Contract shall be for twelve (12) months, beginning on January 1, 2024 and ending on December 31, 2024, unless sooner terminated as set forth herein.
2. Compensation. The County will pay Attorney during the term hereof based upon the Attorney Fee Schedule attached to the Marion County Indigent Defense Plan for Marion County, Texas. A check payment will be made upon receipt of services rendered in direct correlation with Commissioners Court which is typically the second and last Mondays of each month for twelve months. Attorney shall submit an itemized fee voucher to the appointing authority prior to being forwarded to the financial officer for payment.
3. Standard of Performance.
  - (a) Attorney will be appointed upon a judicial determination of conflict of interest between a criminal defendant and the County’s primary contract service provider.
  - (b) Attorney will provide all services required by Senate Bill 7 as passed by the 77<sup>th</sup> Session of the Texas Legislature in 2001. (As it amends the Texas Code of Criminal Procedures).
  - (c) Attorney shall provide competent, zealous legal services to each client in a professional, skilled manner consistent with the Attorney’s responsibilities under the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct and the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.
  - (c) Attorney shall ensure continuity of representation of the client unless relieved or replaced in accordance with art. 26.04(j)(2) of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure.
  - (d) Attorney must submit an invoice to be approved by the Marion County Judge or District Judge’s prior to any payment being made under this Contract, in accordance with art. 26.05 of the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure. The invoice must include the case number, the type of case (adult felony, adult misdemeanor, and juvenile) as well as the number of hours spent on the case.

- (e) Attorney must maintain the minimum qualifications to practice law in the state of Texas, and must immediately inform the County Judge of any change in the status of the Attorney's licensure. The Attorney must provide the County with proof of licensure in good standing upon request. Attorney qualifications shall equal or exceed the qualifications provided in the indigent defense procedures adopted pursuant to Article 26.04, Code of Criminal Procedure, including in Marion County's Indigent Defense Plans.
  - (f) Attorney agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Marion County from any and all claims rising from the delivery of professional services under this contract.
  - (g) Attorney must report to the County Judge the number of continuing legal education hours completed. Attorneys must complete at least 6 hours of continuing legal education pertaining to juvenile law during each 12-month reporting period or be currently certified in juvenile law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. Attorneys must complete at least 6 hours of continuing legal education pertaining to criminal law during each 12-month reporting period or be currently certified in criminal law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.
  - (h) Attorney shall maintain the ability to receive facsimile correspondence twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week at an office regularly open for the practice of law.
  - (i) Attorney must provide quality, effective legal assistance and representation to clients to whom Attorney is assigned.
  - (j) Attorney shall complete all cases once representation is commenced during the term of the contract, unless the attorney is relieved or replaced in accordance with Article 26.04(j)(2), Code of Criminal Procedure. Attorney will be compensated for these uncompleted cases on a case-by-case basis according to the SB7 approved plan.
  - (k) Attorney is prohibited from accepting any payments from a client or third party for legal services provided in a case assigned under this contract
  - (l) Attorney is prohibited from releasing confidential attorney-client information or work product related to any case covered by this contract, except when authorized by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct.
4. Conflict. In the event of a conflict of interest between Attorney and any defendant, Attorney shall present evidence to the court in which the case is pending, and if ordered by the Judge presiding, be allowed to withdraw from representation in that case. Such withdrawal shall not affect the other terms of this agreement.

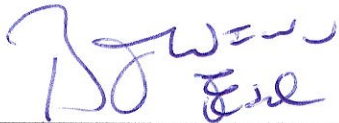
5. Termination. This Contract may be terminated by the County for good cause, with the approval of the majority of the County and District Judges serving Marion County. If a reason for termination is found to exist by any of the judges or the program director, written notice will be given to Attorney, and a private meeting will be held with the Attorney and judges present to discuss the relevant issues, and, thereafter, the judges will vote on the termination of Attorney's contract.
  - (a) County may terminate this agreement if Attorney closes his active office for the practice of law.
  - (b) County may terminate this agreement if Attorney fails to perform the duties required by this agreement. Such failure must be supported by judicial findings of that failure.
  - (c) Attorney may terminate this agreement if County fails to make timely payments hereunder.
  - (d) Attorney may terminate this agreement if, for reasons beyond the control of Attorney, Attorney is unable to perform the duties required hereunder.
  - (e) This agreement may be mutually terminated for any force majeure or any change in the law, which makes the agreement moot.
6. Administration. The District Judges and the Marion County Judge will provide oversight and monitoring to assure that Attorney performs as required under this Contract. Nothing herein shall be interpreted as creating a right or remedy against the County, the Marion County Judge, or the District Judges on the part of any person.
7. Disputes. Venue of any proceeding arising under or with regard to this Contract shall be in a court of competent jurisdiction in Marion County.
8. Additional Terms and Conditions.
  - (a) The cases to be handled under this Agreement shall be non-capital murder cases in which the death penalty is sought. The appointments hereunder may include juvenile cases.
  - (b) Attorney will be responsible for three different categories of cases in County and District Court:
    - Level One. Felonies
    - Level Two. Misdemeanors



Level Three. Juveniles

- (c) A determination that Attorney has given false information in the materials submitted to the County in response to the Request for Qualifications will be grounds for immediate cancellation of this Agreement under the procedures set forth above. The Attorney is also subject to the provisions of the Marion County Indigent Defense Plan and failure to comply with those provisions may result in termination of this Contract by the County upon a finding of non-compliance by the County and District Judges serving Marion County.
- (d) Falsification of any report, invoice, billing documentation or other submission by the Attorney will be grounds for immediate cancellation of this Agreement under the procedures set forth above. In addition, such could subject the Attorney to both professional discipline and criminal prosecution. Therefore, it is very important that submissions be thorough and truthful.

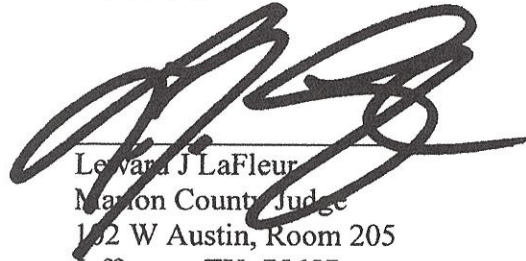
ATTORNEY:



Brandon Winn  
Attorney at Law  
105 Simpson  
Gilmer, TX 75644  
903-843-3061 phone  
903-843-2816 fax  
Winnlawfirm@gmail.com

Date: NOV 30, 2023

COUNTY:



Leward J LaFleur  
Marion County Judge  
102 W Austin, Room 205  
Jefferson, TX 75657  
903-665-3261 phone  
903-665-8732 fax  
leward.lafleur@co.Marion.tx.us

Date: 11-27-2023

## ATTORNEY FEE SCHEDULE

Total compensation for appointed counsel services in the below listed misdemeanor, felony, and juvenile cases shall not exceed the following:

Guilty Plea - Misdemeanor	\$ 250.00
Guilty Plea - State Jail Felony	\$ 400.00
Guilty Plea - 3rd Degree Felony	\$ 400.00
Guilty Plea - 2nd Degree Felony	\$ 400.00
Guilty Plea - 1st Degree Felony	\$ 400.00
Guilty Plea - Multiple Case	\$ 500.00
Dismissal of Filed Case	\$ 400.00
Indictment Quashed	\$ 250.00
Revocation of Probation	\$ 350.00
Pre-trial representation where case never filed	\$ 150.00