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IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 10, 2022

Victoria Newton
Executive Secretary
Executive Council
State Capitol

Re: Retention of Special Counsel

Dear Victoria:

Our office requests authorization pursuant to Iowa Code section 13.7 to retain Special Counsel to provide legal services and representation to Iowa State University (ISU) and the State of Iowa with respect to claims asserted in *Shirtcliff v. State of Iowa*, Case No. LACV052619, in the Iowa District Court for Story County.

This matter arises from a prior employment dispute involving members of the ISU faculty. The case presents complex and unusual employment law and university governance issues. This office has determined that it would be in the best interests of both ISU and the State to engage Special Counsel with expertise in similar matters and with additional resources to represent the State in this matter.

This office has consulted with ISU and we recommend Husch Blackwell, LLP, 4801 Main Street, Suite 1000, Kansas City, MO 64112-2551, to act as Special Counsel in this matter. Fees charged will be the same as those charged by the firm for work with other public universities and range from \$341 to \$393 per hour for attorneys. The fees will be subject to a 5% annual escalation through 2024. Fees and associated costs of litigation will be paid by ISU.

Accordingly, our office recommends Husch Blackwell be approved as Special Counsel.

Sincerely,

JEFFREY S. THOMPSON
Solicitor General