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Executive Council of Iowa

CAPITOL BUILDING
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319
PHONE: 515 281-5368
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July 31, 2025

Mr. Leif Olson
Chief Deputy Attorney General
Attorney General Office-Hoover Bldg.
L O C A L

Re: Approval of attorney fees

Dear Mr. Olson:

I received the enclosed statement from Dentons Davis Brown for the following fees:

Legal Services to state agencies on issues related to the visa status of prospective state employees –
Iowa Department of Revenue

Current balance	\$1,847.40
Waiting for AG recommendation	\$0.00
Pending EC Approval	\$0.00
Claims in Process	\$0.00
Warrant sent	\$0.00
Outstanding Total	\$1,847.40

May I please have your recommendation of this payment request?

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IOWA

Kristi Onstot

Kristi Onstot
Executive Secretary

In Account With**DENTONS DAVIS BROWN PC**

Attorneys and Counselors at Law
215 10th Street, Suite 1300
Des Moines, IA 50309-3993
(515) 288-2500
Federal I.D. No. 42-1343884

Iowa Department of Revenue
Victoria Newton
ExecutiveCouncil@tos.iowa.gov

Statement: 1608500
Date: 7/21/2025

Re: 4247640-173385 - Immigration-Kalawadh, Ali

For Professional Services Rendered

Professional Fees			Hours
06/03/2025	SLEE	NIW: Conference call with Alex Vongnhay and Ali Kalawadh to assess Request for Evidence and strategize on additional evidence for Request for Evidence response. Conferring regarding strategy for request of external expert letter.	0.70
06/03/2025	SLEE	NIW: Reviewing and responding to update from Ali Kalawadh regarding recommendation letter approval from AI pilot vendor and additional evidence for National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response.	0.10
06/03/2025	LTC	Continue review of RFE; conferring with Ali Kalawadh and Alex Vongnhay regarding potential additional evidence and assessing options; attention to E&M visit logistics; attention to time recording issues.	1.00
06/04/2025	DRC	H-1B: Drafting the H-1B Case Strategy. Reviewing the Master Agreement and pay plan. Conferring regarding additional documentation needed for prevailing wage.	0.40
06/04/2025	SLEE	NIW: Conferring regarding case strategy and arguments related to artificial intelligence to present to meet "well-positioned" criterion in National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response.	0.10
06/11/2025	SLEE	NIW: Receiving redacted contract from Ali Kalawadh for National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response. Responding to Ali Kalawadh's inquiry regarding pending items and providing timeline for additional recommendation letter for National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response.	0.10
06/16/2025	SLEE	NIW: Continuing reviewing contract between Iowa Department of Revenue and BlueVector AI for tax appeals project. Drafting letter of recommendation to be signed by John Barnhart for National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response.	2.40
06/17/2025	DRC	H-1B: Conferring regarding the Data Engineer 2 under the Master Agreement and making sure the Public Access File is updated. Reviewing the Labor Condition Application, supporting memorandum, and Notice of Filing.	0.40
06/17/2025	ECOX	H-1B: Preparing and providing public access file documents and instructions to Alex Vongnhay.	0.20
06/17/2025	LTC	Reviewing and reviewing letter of support.	0.80
06/18/2025	SLEE	NIW: Revising draft of recommendation letter to be reviewed and signed by BlueVector AI. Corresponding with Alexander Vongnhay and Ali Kalawadh to provide draft of recommendation letter for review and advising on next steps regarding external advisory opinion letter from Park Evaluations.	0.20
06/24/2025	ECOX	H-1B: Submitting labor condition application.	0.20
06/25/2025	SLEE	NIW: Receiving signed letter from BlueVector AI and additional information from Ali Kalawadh regarding revisions to letter.	0.10

06/27/2025	SLEE	NIW: Drafting cover letter for Park Evaluations, preparing evaluation request packet for Park Evaluations, and corresponding with Park Evaluations to submit request for National Interest Waiver expert opinion letter.	0.90
06/27/2025	SLEE	NIW: Reviewing and responding to Alex Vongnhay's inquiry regarding case status update on response to USCIS's Request for Evidence and providing latest update and next steps. Conferring regarding timeline for finalizing draft of brief for Request for Evidence response.	0.10
06/30/2025	SLEE	NIW: Reviewing response from Sean Hinojosa at Park Evaluations regarding confirmation of willingness to provide independent evaluation letter from analytics professor for Ali Kalawadh's National Interest Waiver Request for Evidence response. Conferring regarding rates and turnaround times. Conducting follow-up correspondence with Alex Vongnhay and Ali Kalawadh to provide cost information from Park Evaluations and to request authorization and confirmation to proceed with Park Evaluations. Reviewing Alex Vongnhay's confirmation to proceed with Park Evaluations and providing follow-up confirmation to Sean Hinojosa.	0.20
Total Hours:			7.90

Rate Summary

Lori T. Chesser	1.80 hours at \$325.00/hr	585.00
Steffi S. Lee Dwyer	4.90 hours at \$200.00/hr	980.00
Denise R. Claton	0.80 hours at \$290.00/hr	232.00
Emily L. Cox	0.40 hours at \$126.00/hr	50.40
Total hours:	<u>7.90</u>	

Total Current Billing: **\$1,847.40**

Effective March 29, 2021, Davis Brown Law Firm formally combined with Dentons to become Dentons Davis Brown PC. Visit www.dentons.com/BusinessTerms to find our Terms of Business, which will apply to our relationship to the extent that it is not inconsistent with the material terms and conditions of any existing engagement agreement. Please contact your lawyer or other professional if you have questions about the Terms of Business or with any respect of your representation.

Current statement due within 30 days of statement date. Please disregard any previously paid amounts. Contact us at 515-246-7812 with any questions. Please include the statement number on your check.

When you provide a check as payment, you authorize us either to use information from your check to make a one-time electronic fund transfer from your account or process the payment as a check transaction. When we use information from your check to make an electronic fund transfer, funds may be withdrawn from your account as soon as the same day we receive your payment, and you will not receive your check back from your financial institution.