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SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE



## Executive Council of Iowa

CAPITOL BUILDING  
DES MOINES, IOWA 50319  
PHONE: 515 281-5368  
FAX: 515 281-7562

April 3, 2023

Mr. Sam Langholz  
Chief Deputy Attorney General  
Attorney General's Office  
Hoover Bldg.  
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Langholz:

The Executive Council, in a meeting held this date, approved your request to retain special counsel to provide legal services for the State Treasurer's Office, Unclaimed Property Division, in regard to Unclaimed Property. Attorney fees and costs will be paid from the Unclaimed Property Fund.

Firm:	Dentons Davis Brown Law Firm The Davis Brown Tower 215 10th Street, Suite 1300 Des Moines, IA 50309
Rate:	Routine Matters – \$175 per claim Complicated Matters - \$350 per claim Complex Matters – Hourly with a 10% discount off standard rates

If you have any questions on the matter, please advise.

Sincerely,

*Victoria Newton*

Victoria Newton  
Executive Secretary

BRENNA BIRD  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

SAM LANGHOLZ  
CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL



1305 E. WALNUT ST.  
DES MOINES, IA 50319  
Main: 515-281-5164 • Direct: 515-281-8583  
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www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

March 30, 2023

Victoria Newton  
Executive Secretary  
Executive Council  
State Capitol  
L O C A L

Re: Change of Request for Special Counsel

Dear Victoria:

The Treasurer's Office previously engaged Wandro & Associates, PC as special counsel on probate issues in connection with the disposition of unclaimed property. This Agreement expired in February 2023. We are requesting approval to retain Dentons Davis Brown ("Dentons") as Special Counsel to provide legal advice on these probate issues.

Dentons has provided the following claim-by-claim fee as an economical way to manage their services:

**Routine Matters – \$175 per claim.**

These are relatively straightforward matters that often could be reviewed by a paralegal, with attorney oversight. As a general rule the matter would take one hour or less to review and would not anticipate much back and forth correspondence with the claimant.

**Complicated Matters - \$350 per claim.**

Complicated matters require some research, additional attorney involvement, and/or correspondence back and forth with the claimant requesting and reviewing additional information, which additional time is not likely to exceed one and a half hours of combined paralegal and attorney time for the additional research and correspondence.

**Complex Matters – Hourly with a 10% discount off standard rates.**

Complex matters cover all claims that do not fit into the Routine or Complicated matters classification. Reasons for this classification include, but are not limited to, significant research; research into probate laws of jurisdictions outside of Iowa; significant volume of documentation to review; claims with uncertainty around marriage, divorce, and descendants; and more than routine communication with the claimant, or separate communication with numerous potential heirs.

All attorney fees and costs will be paid from the Unclaimed Property Fund.

This compensation arrangement is equivalent to, or more competitive than, fees paid at other Des Moines law firms. Accordingly, our office recommends that Dentons Davis Brown be approved as special counsel to handle these matters for the Treasurer's Office.

Sincerely,



Sam Langholz  
Chief Deputy Attorney General



Roby Smith  
Treasurer of State

Capitol Building  
1007 E Grand Avenue  
Des Moines, IA 50319

March 27, 2023

Honorable Brenna Bird  
Iowa Attorney General  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Hoover Building  
Via Email

Re: Retention of Special Counsel for Unclaimed Property Program

Dear Attorney General Bird:

I am writing to request that you seek Executive Council authorization to employ Special Counsel to provide legal advice to the Treasurer's Office on probate issues in connection with the disposition of unclaimed property.

An Agreement for Special Counsel was approved in February of 2021 with Wandro & Associates for these services. That Agreement expired on February 27, 2023. The Treasurer's Office is asking that moving forward Dentons Davis Brown is retained for this purpose.

Dentons Davis Brown provided a bid on March 15, 2023 (see attached). The Treasurer's Office would request that Dentons Davis Brown is retained as Special Counsel under their Proposal One option, as indicated below.

1. Routine Matters – \$175 per claim.

These are relatively straightforward matters that often could be reviewed by a paralegal, with attorney oversight. As a general rule the matter would take one hour or less to review and would not anticipate much back and forth correspondence with the claimant.

2. Complicated Matters - \$350 per claim.

Complicated matters require some research, additional attorney involvement, and/or correspondence back and forth with the claimant requesting and reviewing additional information, which additional time is not likely to exceed one and a half hours of combined paralegal and attorney time for the additional research and correspondence.

3. Complex Matters – Hourly with a 10% discount off standard rates.

Complex matters cover all claims that do not fit into the Routine or Complicated matters classification. Reasons for this classification include, but are not limited to, significant research; research into probate laws of jurisdictions outside of Iowa; significant volume of documentation to review; claims with uncertainty around marriage, divorce, and descendants; and more than routine communication with the claimant, or separate communication with numerous potential heirs.

Honorable Brenna Bird

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March 28, 2023

While we are not opposed to the hourly option, we have found a pay on a claim-by-claim basis has been an economical way to manage the agreement.

I would respectfully request that you seek Executive Council authorization to employ Dentons Davis Brown as special counsel to provide legal advice to the Treasurer's Office on probate issues in connection with the disposition of unclaimed property.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Roby Smith". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Roby Smith  
Treasurer of State