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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

October 5, 2026

Mr. Steven Blankinship
Chief Deputy Attorney General
Attorney General's Office
Hoover Bldg.
LOCAL

Dear Mr. Blankinship,

The Executive Council, in a meeting held this date, approved your requests for retention of special counsel pursuant to Iowa Code section 13.7 to provide legal services and representation to the University of Iowa with respect to a lawsuit filed by the City of Coralville.

Firm: Harris Winick Harris LLP
333 West Wacker Drive
Suite 2060
Chicago, IL 60606

Rate: $650 per hour

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF IOWA

Kristi Onstot

Kristi Onstot
Executive Secretary

BRENNA BIRD
ATTORNEY GENERAL

STEVE BLANKINSHIP
CHIEF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

1305 E. WALNUT ST.
DES MOINES, IA 50319
Main: 515-281-5164 ○ Direct: 515-954-9564
Email: steven.blankinship@ag.iowa.gov
www.iowaattorneygeneral.gov

September 28, 2026

Kristi Onstot
Executive Secretary
Executive Council
State Capitol
LOCAL

Re: Retention of Special Counsel

Dear Ms. Onstot:

The Attorney General has reviewed the request from the University of Iowa regarding the proposal to retain Jeff Winick of the firm Harris Winick Harris LLP.

Our office agrees with this proposal and believes it would advance the office's ability to handle this litigation and continue providing services to its other clients. The attorney and vendor rates proposed therein are commercially reasonable and appropriate for litigation of this scope, and this office has previous experience with the firm.

Yours truly,



Steve Blankinship
Chief Deputy Attorney General

Office of the General Counsel
120 Jessup Hall
5 West Jefferson Street
Iowa City, Iowa 52242-1316
Phone: 319-335-3696
Fax: 319-335-2830

25 September 2026

Dear Jeff:

Thank you for visiting with Joe Clamon and I about the lawsuit recently filed by the City of Coralville. As we discussed, the university is requesting approval to hire outside counsel to represent it in this matter.

The university is seeking authorization to retain Jeff Winick of Harris Winick Harris LLP. Jeff is a University of Iowa graduate and represented the university in its successful 2025 arbitration hearing relating to the defective windows in the Stead Family Children's Hospital.

Jeff and his team have extensive construction contract litigation experience. They are also familiar with the leadership team at University of Iowa Health Care and have considerable background information on the evolution of UI Health Care's physical infrastructure from the firm's work on the windows case. Moreover, this case may prove to be complex and document intensive given the Memorandum of Understanding on which the allegations are based was signed in 2015. The university is conscious of the strain it would put on your staff who are already handling a number of challenging matters for us.

Harris Winick Harris discounted its rates for the windows arbitration for a blended rate of $650/hour that includes both partners and associates. The firm has agreed to continue that arrangement for this case, subject to modest annual increases, if approved by the Executive Council.

Please let us know if have any other questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

James D. Jorgensen
Vice President for Legal Affairs
and General Counsel