

# ACTION ITEM

Claims Committee Meeting, June 12, 2019  
Board of Governors Meeting, June 19, 2019

<b>CONTRACT ID:</b>	<b>Supplemental Claims Legal Services RFP No. 19-0007 RECOMMENDED VENDOR: MULTIPLE – SEE NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD (ATTACHMENT “A”)</b>
<b>BUDGETED ITEM</b>	Yes. Funding for these contracts is included in the 2019 Annual Operating Budget and will be paid as a Loss Adjusting Expense (LAE).
<b>CONTRACT AMOUNT</b>	<p>The recommended firms will be added to the existing panel of Citizens’ claims defense counsel (First Party Property and Appellate). The contract terms do not require Citizens to make any assignments or pay any minimum amounts to the selected law firms. The firms recommended for award will supplement the existing panel of counsel which were awarded contracts in the First Party Property and/or Appellate claims-related service areas under Request for Proposals (RFP) 15-0023 and 16-0009. The additional contracts awarded under this RFP 19-0007, will not increase the estimated cost of the contracts awarded under RFP 15-0023 and RFP 16-0009. The estimated cost for all contracts awarded under RFPs 19-0007, 16-0009 and 15-0023, including renewals, remains \$350,000,000.00*.</p> <p>*Note - These estimated figures do not account for a sudden anticipated increase in PIF count or reported claims that would likely result in the event of a large storm or series of storms.</p>
<b>PURPOSE / SCOPE</b>	<p>This Action Item seeks Board approval to pre-qualify law firms to provide legal defense services on behalf of Citizens in the First Party Property and/or Appellate claims-related service areas. With this RFP 19-0007, Citizens is seeking additional law firms to supplement the existing panel of firms providing First Party Property and Appellate claims legal services as it relates to both volume and location of resources.</p> <p>Currently, Citizens is contracted with over 100 outside defense firms to provide claims-related legal services. These vendors were procured via two solicitations that occurred in 2015 and 2016. However, despite having firms currently under contract to provide these services, a need to retain additional law firms has arisen due to the current volume of pending litigation resulting from the influx of new lawsuits associated with recent catastrophic events that directly impacted various parts of Florida. Those firms currently under contract are presently able to meet Citizens’ needs, albeit in a capacity that has placed significant strain on their resources and capabilities; however, further catastrophic weather events (not necessarily requiring a similar sized impact as recent storms) would jeopardize Citizens’ ability to effectively manage claims litigation due to a likely significant shortage of qualified outside counsel to handle the anticipated additional volume of litigation.</p> <p>Therefore, by contracting with additional outside claims counsel, Citizens can ensure that it (1) has the appropriate amount of resources needed to adequately address potential future volumes of pending litigation and (2) is utilizing qualified law firms to deliver a high level of legal service.</p>

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<b>CONTRACT TERM(S)</b>	The proposed contract terms will mirror the existing contracts awarded under RFP 15-0023 and RFP 16-0009 and will have a base term that coincides with our existing contracts which expire on February 3, 2021 and include two (2) optional, one-year renewal terms, which may be exercised upon mutual agreement of the parties.
<b>PROCUREMENT METHOD</b>	On March 13, 2019, Citizens issued Supplemental Claims Legal Services RFP 19-0007. Vendor responses were due by April 15, 2019 and twenty-one (21) proposals were timely submitted. The proposals were reviewed and scored by an Evaluation Committee who recommended to award contracts to law firms on June 5, 2019. A listing of the firms recommended for award by service area is attached in the Notice of Intent to Award (See Attachment "A").
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	Staff recommends that Citizens' Claims Committee approve and recommends the Board of Governors:  a) Approve the recommended award and resulting contracts, including renewal periods, for RFP 19-0007 for Supplemental Claims Legal Services to the list of attached vendors (Attachment "A");  b) Authorize staff to take any appropriate or necessary actions consistent with this Action Item; and  c) Approve this Action Item for these supplemental claims legal service contracts, utilizing funds previously approved for RFP 15-0023 and RFP 16-0009, which was \$350,000,000.
<b>CONTACTS</b>	Jay Adams, Chief Claims Officer Daniel Sumner, Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel



**NOTICE OF INTENT TO AWARD  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS 19-0007  
SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIMS LEGAL SERVICES  
JUNE 5, 2019**

As to the above-mentioned competitive procurement, Citizens Property Insurance Corporation ("Citizens") intends to award contracts to the following Firms:

**Service Area 1. First Party Property:**

1. Matthew C. Barber, P.A
2. McGrath Law Group
3. ECLAT LAW LLP
4. Hassell-Legal, P.A.
5. Pena Garcia & Diz Law Firm, PLLC
6. Methe & Rothel, P.A.
7. Coquina Law Group, P.A.
8. Bernal & Bernal, P.A.

**Service Area 2. Appellate:**

1. Lewis Brisbois Bisgaard & Smith LLP
2. Law Office of Paul R. Percy, P.A
3. Groelle & Salmon, P.A.
4. Methe & Rothell, P.A.

Citizens will undertake efforts to finalize a signed contract with the above Vendors. All Contracts are subject to approval by Citizens' Board of Governors.

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***FAILURE TO FILE A PROTEST WITHIN THE TIME PRESCRIBED IN SECTION 627.351, F.S., CONSTITUTES A WAIVER OF PROCEEDINGS. SEE SECTION 4, GENERAL CONDITIONS, WITHIN THE SOLICITATION DOCUMENT FOR DETAILS REGARDING HOW AND WHERE TO FILE A PROTEST.***