



TO: Roger Breed, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

FROM: MARGARET WORTH, GENERAL COUNSEL

SUBJECT: Contract(s) with Morris & Titus Law Firm

Proposed Board Action:

Grant the Commissioner the authority to contract with Morris & Titus Law Firm, PC, LLO. Mr. Bill Morris will serve as a hearing official as needed and assigned for Special Education hearings and Mr. Jim Titus will continue to serve as a hearing officer for teacher education case appeals; teacher certification case appeals; option enrollment cases, and other miscellaneous contested cases as assigned by the Nebraska Department of Education.

Background Information:

Mr. Jim Titus, under the direction of the Assistant Attorney General, was contracted to fulfill a previous hearing officer contract to serve as a hearing officer for teacher education case appeals; teacher certification case appeals; option enrollment cases, and other miscellaneous contested cases as assigned by NDE, in September, 2011. Mr. Titus' current contract will end June 30, 2012. Mr. Titus has contested cases that will not be resolved until FY 2012-2013. With the renewal of this contract, Mr. Titus can complete these cases and be assigned new cases that may be filed in FY 2012-2013. Payment under this contract is based upon cases actually filed and assigned, the actual payment may be less than the maximum amount.

Mr. Bill Morris will be conducting administrative hearings for the Department which are required by state and federal laws and regulations in the area of Special Education. NDE maintains two SPED hearing officials, last FY one of our hearing officials had to terminate their contract because of other legal obligations. Mr. Morris will be NDE's second SPED hearing official. Payment under this contract is based upon cases actually filed and assigned, the actual payment may be less than the maximum amount.

Estimated Cost:

\$40,000.00

Supporting Documentation Included:

For Additional Information on this item:

Call Margaret Worth (402) 471-0310 or email margaret.worth@nebraska.gov

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