17.1

STATE OF TEXAS §
§
COUNTY OF BEXAR §

ATTORNEY RETAINER AGREEMENT

1. For services rendered and to be rendered in this matter by The Amsberry Law Firm, PLLC, the undersigned clients retain this law firm to represent them with relation to their pending defamation and any related claims.

2. Attorneys, their agents and employees, are authorized to take all steps deemed by them to be necessary and appropriate to obtain a satisfactory result, including but not limited to securing a complete investigation, instituting legal proceedings including but not limited to arbitration, employing consultants, expert witnesses, and associate counsel, entering into settlement negotiations, preparing settlement brochures, preparing for and/or PROCEEDING TO TRIAL. Attorneys agree not to accept any settlement offers without the client's approval of the terms

3. The attorney's fee shall be constituted in the form of a non-refundable retainer of $7,500.00, which is based on an hourly rate of $375.00 per hour. Other subordinate staff may work on your matter a reduced hourly rate of $275.00 for associates; $200 for paralegals, and $100 for administrative staff. The first installment shall be in the amount of $3000.00 payable on or before June 21, 2019. The remainder of the retainer shall be paid based on invoiced charges within five (5) days of being invoiced electronically (e.g. email). Should client fail to pay initial retainer as set forth herein, subsequent installments on retainer, or costs, clients agree that they are not opposed to attorney withdrawing from matter. The firm shall maintain a thirty-three and one third percent ($33^{1/3}$ %) contingency interest in any recovery achieved as to both clients prior to commencement of litigation (e.g. filing of lawsuit), forty percent (40%) contingency interest if settled sixty days or more outside of trial setting, and 45% within less than sixty days from scheduled trial on merits. This contract is only through the district court level or arbitration and does not include any appeals, if so necessary. Client's obligation to pay fees shall be capped at $7500.00 as stated above; however, client shall continue to be required to cover any costs should litigation arise and be payable within five (5) days of invoicing. IF BILLABLE HOURS ARE INCURRED, AN ITEMIZED INVOICE SHALL BE SUBMITTED ON THE 1ST AND 15TH OF EACH CALENDER MOUNTH.

The law firm is authorized to incur such costs and expenses as in the attorney's sole and exclusive judgment deem reasonable and necessary to accomplish a satisfactory resolution of the claims and are authorized to advance such expenses on behalf of clients, within reimbursement by clients. Said expenses shall include, but not be limited to, law clerk drafting and research, investigations, travel and lodging, couriers, express and certified mailings, physician and/or expert witness fees, consultant fees, settlement and trial exhibits, models, diagrams, photography, equipment expenses, videotape, copies at .20 per page, facsimiles at $1.00 per page, parking, long distance telephone, postage including but not limited to certified and courier services, and supplies.

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4. The clients hereby grant the attorney a lien on their respective causes of action, and a lien on any proceeds and any judgments recovered in connection with such causes of action as security for the payment of attorney's fees and expenses as contracted herein.

5. Clients acknowledge and agree that, regardless of the outcome of this case, the attorney does not assume liability for nor agrees to pay from the attorney's fee any debt incurred by the client including, but not limited to expenses deemed necessary and appropriate toward reaching a final disposition of the matter.

6. The clients agree that the attorney retains the right at any time following investigation, discovery, or legal research, to release himself from this contract and withdraw from the representation of the client. Situations that may trigger this provision include if it appears to the attorney that circumstances have developed which hinder continued effective litigation of the case; that continued litigation would not be cost effective or result in a substantial or collectable judgment; or the client engages in conduct which renders it unreasonably difficult for the attorney to carry out the employment effectively. In the event of such a withdrawal, the attorney will retain a lien on the case to the extent of the attorney's fees expended beyond the retainer, expenses and costs which have been advanced on the client's behalf. The client agrees to protect such attorney's fees, expenses and costs out of any recovery ultimately obtained in the case.

7. Clients authorize and confer on attorney liberal authority to settle the claims and theories raised in their respective cases. In the event that facts or developments within the case lead attorney to conclude that case should be settled rather than tried or tried through a full jury verdict, attorney shall notify client of the same and client has election of conforming to advise of counsel or assume responsibility for all attorney's fees incurred up through that point in litigation, in lieu of the capped fees provision in paragraph (3) above. Client further agrees that such payment of fees are payable upon request of attorney and cannot be discharged through bankruptcy.

8. This contract is entered into in Bexar County, Texas, which shall also be the place of performance and payment in accordance with the terms of the contract. Furthermore, this contract contains all the agreements of the parties.

9. The clients acknowledge that the attorney has made NO GUARANTEE regarding the successful resolution of said cause of action, and all expressions relative thereto are matters of attorney's opinion only and shall not be considered as express or implied warranties of claim's outcome.

10. In the event any subrogation interests are claimed with respect to actual or potential recoveries by the client(s), the client(s) do hereby give permission to the attorney to contract separately with the subrogee(s) for payment of attorney's fees and expenses.

11. This contract as between clients and attorney reflects only on representation through

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litigation/mediation/arbitration, it does not bind either party in the event an appeal of such decision is sought. Should an appeal of the above matter be deemed necessary and appropriate between attorney and client, a separate contract reflecting different terms shall be executed.

12. We understand and agree that the firm reserves and retains the right to increase hourly rates in accordance with general increases in the hourly rates charged by the firm.

13. The clients acknowledge that there may be costs and expenses associated with prosecution of their EEO case and advances a cost deposit of $500.00 toward such costs, expenses or additional attorney's fees, should the original retainer be exhausted. Should attorney's fees be exhausted, any costs deposit remaining may be used to charge down outstanding fees. Any cost deposit sums not utilized shall be refunded back to client(s) upon closure of the file or the firm being discharged as attorney of record.

14. We understand and agree that The Amsberry Law Firm, PLLC has the right to exercise full discretion over the manner and pace of the investigation and prosecution of the case.

15. We understand and agree that The Amsberry Law Firm, PLLC shall maintain full ownership and control over all exhibits and work product created in the course of this firm's representation in this case.

16. We acknowledge that The Amsberry Law Firm, PLLC has advised us that its services do not include tax advise. We agree to obtain independent tax advise regarding the characterization of any settlement, if any, prior to entering into a settlement agreement.

17. Clients further agrees that they have an absolute duty of candor with attorney and law firm with relation to the pending subject litigation. If clients misrepresent facts to that create a substantially different and less valuable case, the attorney has the option of charging client on an hourly basis at not less than usual hourly charges for attorneys and litigation in current litigation in the office and to receive interest at the rate of 12% per annum on all expenses advanced for client and/or seek withdrawal from further representation

18. We have read this contract in its entirety and understood its terms and conditions. We agree to all the terms and conditions contained herein and understood that by our signature hereon we are contractually binding ourselves to abide by and honor all of said terms and conditions.

19. This contract constitutes all the agreements between the parties and may not be amended except in writing and executed by all parties.

20. Agreement. Clients agree to cooperate fully with Attorney in providing testimony, documents and assistance in answering inquiries by Defendant(s) and otherwise cooperating fully in the presentation of the case and the provision of information. Clients agree to keep Attorney

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advised of all changes of employment, address, or other events which may affect the outcome of this case.

21. DISPUTE RESOLUTION. Attorney and Clients agree to resolve any disputes concerning the underlying contract or representation amicably. In the event that resolution cannot be achieved through ordinary communications, any dispute concerning any matter of representation or the underlying contract shall be submitted to the Client-Attorney Assistance Program, whose toll free telephone number is 1-800-932-1900. Any dispute that is not otherwise resolved by the Client-Attorney Assistance Program, shall be submitted to binding arbitration under the rules of the American Arbitration Association (AAA) and by an AAA arbitrator, where both parties shall bear their respective fees, costs and expenses. This provision shall not bar either party of its right to withdraw or terminate representation.

22. Both clients acknowledge by entering this contract that they are seeking and agreeing to joint representation in connection with their claims and hereby waive any conflict of interest, if any that may exist, between the two and further waiver confidentiality between attorney and other client as any issues arising from or related to the scope of representation.

SIGNED this 30 day of June, 2019.

Steve Mueller, Client

Stephanie Pino

VFWP-01651

CREDIT CARD RETAINER & COST AUTHORIZATION

I, STEVE MUELLER, agree to allow the Amsberry Law Firm to use the below credit card to pay my retainer and cost deposit as well as supplement my retainer, should the original retainer be exhausted, within five (5) days of receiving an itemized billing statement. I further agree to notify the Amsberry Law Firm, PLLC if the below credit card is cancelled or expires prior to the fulfillment of my obligation and provide an alternate credit card to process payments.

Credit Card:

Name on Card: STEVE MUELLER

Card Type: MASTER

Card No. 5190 9500 1335 4977 Expiration: 06/22/

CCU: 635

Corresponding Address Related to Account:

1860 FM 1332 JOURDANTON TX 78026

Cellular Number: 830-200-1629 Work Number: N/A

Email Address: SVME UDCINC.ORG

Signed this : 6/24/19

Authorized Card User