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Organization Type and Model

The proposer is the Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc., which is a law corporation registered with the State of California and will be referred to as “proposer” hereinafter. The proposer currently provides legal representation to criminal defendants, juvenile delinquents and parties in parental termination cases, on a court appointed basis in Siskiyou County. Joseph M. Ahart personally provides the legal representation in those cases unless a conflict of interest arises. In that event, Joseph M. Ahart assigns the case to one of three private attorneys. Additionally, Joseph M. Ahart has practiced law in California for nearly nineteen years, which included over six years in the Shasta County Public Defender’s Office as a Deputy Public Defender. *See* attachment C.

The proposer will utilize the organizational model of a centralized administration of a panel of independent attorneys, which includes the administrator. The proposer will provide legal services for clients and make court appointed attorneys available whereby proposer contracts with independent subcontracting attorneys who will then provide legal services for all clients in all phases of those criminal actions to which attorneys are appointed by the Siskiyou County Superior Court, including but not limited to all necessary court appearances for the defendant/party, motions, writs, trials, preliminary hearings, violation of probation hearings, sentencing, and legal research, in all divisions of the Siskiyou County Superior Court, Adult Divisions, and in the Juvenile Division, in delinquency cases only. Proposer will provide court appointed attorneys for all cases where the public defender is unable to represent a qualified client, with the following limitations. **If the District Attorney is seeking the death penalty, such cases will be considered outside this proposal.**

All appointed attorneys will represent clients according to the performance standards as set by the Judicial Council of California, the State Bar of California and American Bar Association Standards on Ethics, the State Bar of California Standards of Representation for Indigent Defense Services, the California Rules of Professional Conduct, Business & Professions Code §6000, *et. seq.*, and the Performance Guidelines for Criminal Defense Representation of the National Legal Aid and Defender Association and in compliance with the California Rules of Court and the Siskiyou County Superior Court Local Rules.

The administrator will manage the proposed appointment structure and provide additional administrative services designed to improve the quality and efficiency of court appointed legal services during the course of the service agreement

Joseph M. Ahart will be both an attorney accepting appointments and the administrator for the services provided by the proposer.

Administrator Introduction

My name is Joseph Ahart. I have lived in Redding since moving here in 2006. I have two children, one who is an adult and one who attends school in Redding. I have served in a number of community activities including but not limited to serving as a board member on the West Redding Little League Board, participating as a member of the Shasta-Trinity County Bar Association, and serving as the attorney coach of the Shasta High School Mock Trial team. I have coached trial advocacy at the undergraduate and graduate school levels. I also volunteered for the Youth Violence Prevention Council, the YMCA, Anderson Parks and Recreation, and Redding Recreation.

I personally represented indigent clients at the trial court level in Shasta County for twelve years, Lassen County for a year and Siskiyou County for the last five and one half years. As a Deputy Public Defender from 2006 until 2013, I represented clients in misdemeanor and felony cases. I served as the back up to the juvenile delinquency deputy, represented clients in guardianship, conservatorship, and contempt cases. I

also sat on the collaborative court for recidivist intoxicated drivers as the defense bar representative, where I worked very closely with Honorable Judge William Gallagher and learned a great deal about administrative issues related to the court. For most of the years I worked at the Public Defender's Office, I worked under Neal Pereira and Timothy Pappas and learned a wealth of knowledge about administrative issues associated with indigent defense. In fact, Mr. Pereira personally trained me how to represent clients in Lanterman-Petris-Short conservatorship proceedings and Mr. Pappas trained me how to litigate various issues relating to the Constitutional rights of my clients. In my six and a half years at the Public Defender's Office, I learned the nuances of indigent public defense.

In 2013, I contracted with the Law Office of Jeffrey Jens and continued to do so until January 1, 2018. Over that time, I represented clients in felony, misdemeanor, guardianship, conservatorship, and juvenile delinquency proceedings. I assisted Mr. Jens in recruiting attorneys to work on the panel and outside the panel when necessary. In doing so, I kept careful watch on the processes associated with administration of the conflict panel and administrative issues relating to the panel. I worked very closely with Mr. Jens and learned a great deal about administering a group of attorneys as a result of that relationship. In fact, Mr. Jens used many of the attorneys who worked on the dependency court team to represent clients on an hourly basis. During that four and half years, I learned many of the nuances of a conflict panel from the perspective of both an administrator and attorney.

In 2014, I contracted with the Shasta Superior Court to administrate the juvenile dependency attorneys. Over the six years, I recruited and administered a group of attorneys who brought professionalism and efficiency to the court while providing high quality services. In fact, visiting judges from outside counties commented how cordial, professional and efficient the court operates in Shasta County. In September of 2020, my contract with the Shasta County Superior Court expired.

Since March of 2018, I have practiced, on a part time basis, as a panel attorney on the Central California Appellate Program where I have been appointed to represent criminal defendants and juvenile delinquents in both the Third and Fifth District Courts of Appeal. Last year, I removed myself from the appointment list because the caseload demands with the Siskiyou County caseload did not allow the time to continue representing clients in appellate cases.

In January 2019, I contracted with Siskiyou County and will continue to do so until January 1, 2025, unless I reach an agreement with the Siskiyou County through this proposal to continue accepting appointments. Over that time, I represented clients in felony, misdemeanor, guardianship, conservatorship, juvenile delinquency and parental termination proceedings. During that five and half years, I learned many of the nuances of administering a conflict panel from the perspective of both an administrator and attorney.

Over the course of my career, I have developed good professional relationships with every prosecutor, public defender, family law attorney, and other local attorney, who I have worked with. I have very high standards of practice and I work extremely diligently in my own practice. I believe those who work around me respect my practice. I have trained and mentored numerous attorneys from the conflict panels and Shasta County Public Defender's Office, some of whom currently practice in Siskiyou County. In fact, I provided MCLE trainings on various topics when I worked at the Shasta County Public Defender's Office. I still serve as mentor for a number of attorneys and I enjoy training, assisting and helping other attorneys improve their practice.

With respect to my professional philosophy regarding administering attorneys, I subcontract with attorneys who mirror my professional integrity. That is, I look for attorneys who are ethical, work hard, and provide the highest quality service possible. As a result, the attorneys I administer are generally well respected and appreciated by Court, counsel, staff and clients alike.

Professional References

Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Court Executive Officer

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(530) 245 6761

Kirk Andrus, Siskiyou County District Attorney

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Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 842 8125

Martha Aker, Siskiyou County Assistant District Attorney

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(530) 842 8125

John Quinn, Siskiyou County Chief Deputy District Attorney

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Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 842 8125

Theodore Balboni, Siskiyou County Deputy District Attorney

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Yreka, CA 96097

(530) 842 8125

Andy Marx, Retired Siskiyou County Assistant Public Defender

Post Office Box 1225
Mount Shasta, CA 96067

(530) 918 8730

Ryan Mannix, Former Siskiyou County Conflict Panel Administrator

500 4th Street
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(530) 842 2260

William Bateman, Shasta County Public Defender

1815 Yuba Street
Redding, CA 96001

(530) 245 7598

Michael Khoronov, Shasta County Assistant Public Defender

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Michael Borges, Criminal Defense Attorney

1558 West Street
Redding, CA 96001

(530) 241 2640

Administrative Meet and Confer

My general administrative methodology is based on the goals of minimizing costs for the county, creating a structure with long term sustainability and providing high quality legal services. That starts with meeting and conferring with other administrators in order to assist in institutional efficiency.

I will meet and confer with the Court, the District Attorney and any county personnel at the request of any of those entities in order to ensure the proper administration of legal services and functioning of the Court and county offices affected by the administration of legal services under this proposal. I will be especially sensitive to the fiscal impact on the county of any policies and actions taken. I will always welcome input from all affected parties during the term of any contract for services. Collaboration between administrators, department heads and the Court is a necessary component of administering the conflict panel. When these entities collaborate, the judicial process moves more fluidly, cases are resolved without undue delay and unnecessary use of resources. In my experience, when these entities don't collaborate, the County and Courts lose because parties are not resolving cases.

As the administrator for the Juvenile Dependency Court, I regularly conferred with the Court, the Court's administrators and counsel in the department to ensure that the quality of services were high and the proceedings were efficient. I intend on doing the same as the administrator for the conflict panel, except I will be collaborating with the criminal courts, the Public Defender and the District Attorney. For the most part, I have had very good professional relationships with each of those entities wherever I practice and I anticipate that will continue. Currently, I attend the Criminal Justice Stakeholder meetings in Siskiyou County in order to remain abreast of the issues affecting the criminal courts. Often times, the Court solicits input from counsel and I have always been open to suggesting ideas of how to make court and counsel more efficient. When I practiced in the Shasta County Superior Court, I assisted in creating a calendar system for the felony department that created efficiency gains for the Court, counsel, and law enforcement that is still utilized to this day. I will continue make those same efforts as an administrator of Siskiyou County's conflict panel.

From a fiscal perspective, an administrator, who is active in this regard, will create a substantial cost savings for the county. Although difficult to quantify, the reality is that when the criminal courts operate most efficiently, the ancillary costs diminish accordingly because cases that should resolve do so in an earlier stage of the proceedings. Over the course of the five and one half years, Siskiyou County has benefitted fiscally from my administration. The yearly ancillary costs from the years prior to my administration to the current time has been reduced by ninety percent.

Administrative Direction

Although an active administrator in regard to meeting and conferring is certainly significant, directing attorney practice habits is the most critical method to achieving the goals of minimizing costs for the

county, creating a structure with long term sustainability and providing high quality legal services. I intend on leading by example in this regard.

First and foremost, the most important rule of indigent criminal defense is mastering client control. Client control refers to when a client listens and follows the advice of his/her attorney throughout the proceedings. In my experience, it boils down to whether or not the client trusts his/her attorney. Indigent clients are typically uneducated, usually impoverished and often accustomed to a social environment dissimilar to the formalities of the court system. What's more, the client does not get to choose his/her attorney. From an indigent client's perspective, his/her attorney is part of the same system that seeks to incarcerate the client. So, it's an accomplishment for any attorney to gain the trust of a client. But once a client trusts an attorney, that attorney can provide the client with advice and other legal services on a far more efficient basis.

Again, although difficult to quantify, the reality is no different than it is for the efficient operation of the criminal courts. When attorneys practice more efficiently, with clients who listen and follow advice, the ancillary costs diminish accordingly because cases that should resolve do so in an earlier stage of the proceedings.

So, I have devised a set of contractual policies and strategies that will result in practice habits that will cultivate trust from the client, while enabling the attorney to practice more efficiently. I have used similar policies with the attorneys who I administered in both the Juvenile Dependency Court and the Siskiyou County Superior Court and the results have been very good.

Contractual Policies

As an administrator, I will require attorneys, by way of contractual agreement, to adhere to a series of policies and strategies to ensure high quality service, including but not limited to the following:

1. Preparation/Timeliness – Subcontracting attorneys will be required to be adequately prepared and punctual for all court appearances. In the event subcontracting attorneys have calendar conflicts, subcontracting attorneys are required to immediately inform the administrator in order to schedule an appropriate substitute attorney.

Over my eighteen years as a practicing attorney and ten years as an administrator, the glaring trend that creates inefficiencies is when attorneys are either not adequately prepared or not punctual for court appearances. I successfully changed that culture when I took over administration of Juvenile Dependency Attorneys. Certainly, clients trust attorneys who are fully prepared and are punctual for all court appearances. Furthermore, cases with prepared attorneys typically resolve earlier in the proceedings. From a fiscal perspective, the ancillary costs diminish when attorneys are prepared and punctual because cases that should resolve earlier do so in an earlier stage of the proceedings.

2. In Custody Defendants – Subcontracting attorneys are required to consult with in-custody clients **prior** to all meaningful court dates and are required to be the **first person** that makes a professional visit to the client.

When I practiced at the Public Defender's Office, the very first rule I learned was that all clients who were in custody must be visited prior to meaningful court dates. I have personally continued that practice habit even after I left the Shasta County Public Defender's Office. I also ensure that I am the first person, not an investigator, who makes a professional visit and often times I make those visits on the weekend or even a holiday. The reason is simple. Clients tend to trust an attorney who takes the time and effort to make that initial contact. Additionally, clients who have been advised of the process, the issues of the case and likely outcomes typically follow the advice that attorneys convey at subsequent court appearances. Again, from a fiscal perspective, the ancillary costs diminish when a client trusts his/her attorney because cases that should resolve earlier do so in an earlier stage of the proceedings.

3. Meet and Confer – Subcontracting attorneys are required to meet and confer with opposing counsel at least two days prior to all contested hearings.

In my experience, meeting and conferring with counsel prior to court appearances creates efficiency for the very simple reason that attorneys can consult with clients prior to court appearances. Clients have the opportunity to deliberate over the attorney’s advice and are not pressured to make quick life altering decisions at a court appearance. Typically, when clients are pressured to make decisions, the default is no decision at all, which often means that a case or cases that should resolve earlier in the proceedings, do not.

4. Special Appearances – In the event of calendar conflicts, subcontracting attorneys are to prioritize appearances in the Siskiyou County criminal court over other proceedings, unless other proceedings have legal preference, ie, juvenile dependency/delinquency, no time waiver hearings, and jury trials. In the event that calendar conflict is unavoidable, special appearances will be permitted on the condition that the attorney specially appearing is able to reset the case for future dates that will not create further calendaring conflicts. Additionally, the attorney will be required to advise the client of the special appearance. If such special appearance will occur, the administrator will be advised of such.

In my experience, indigent clients tend distrust their attorney when he or she is not present. And it should come to no surprise that a case cannot be properly handled if counsel is not present.

5. Court Calendar Congestion and Continuances – Subcontracting attorneys are required to avoid continuances and calendaring that may result in any unnecessary court calendar congestion.

In my experience, multiple court appearances and calendar congestion undermine the trust that a client puts in his/her attorney. Appearing at multiple unnecessary court dates has a very real impact on the lives of clients, who may have child care, employment, or other obligations that are disrupted for court. Calendar congestion prevents adequate time being dedicated to clients and clients are pressured to make quick life altering decisions at a court appearance. Again, when clients are pressured to make decisions, the default is no decision at all, which often means that a case or cases that should resolve earlier in the proceedings, does not. That’s before considering the costs to the court and the county to have multiple court appearances.

6. Marsden Hearings – Subcontracting attorneys will be required to report all work completed in the case to the court during every Marsden hearing.

In my career, I have had several Marsden hearings, only four of which were granted. It’s very much part of a Public Defender’s weekly work experience. In my experience, most of my Marsden requests have been denied and I credit that to a very simple strategy that I have embodied throughout my career. I have used Marsden hearings as a forum to cultivate trust with my clients. In every hearing, I inform the court of a detailed list of all the things that I have done to represent the client. I never have a list with less than ten distinct things.

At a Marsden hearing, I, as a matter of practice, I will inform the court, as pertinent, that: 1. I read the file and reviewed all documents in the case. 2. I visited the client on ___ dates. 3. I advised the client of the exposure, the procedure, and the facts of the case. 4. I conferred with an investigator. 5. I spoke with a family member. 6. I conveyed the offer of resolution. 7. I advised the client whether s/he should accept that offer. 8. I advised the client of the consequences of accepting the offer. ... I always end with “I have no problem continuing to represent the client.” Typically, the judge will explain to the client how much work has been done and how well his/her attorney seems to be representing and that it’s the attorney’s duty to give an honest opinion about the case. I have never had poor client relations after a Marsden hearing when I use this strategy. The simple reason is that the client trusts me afterward and I have gained client control.

The results of Marsden hearings are very important to me. I believe that an attorney should not have a Marsden hearing granted for any reason other than a credible safety issue, although there are scenarios where communication has broke down to a point where a new attorney needs to be appointed. I will keep records regarding all Marsden hearings after which counsel was relieved. The records will include case name, case number, and assigned attorney, the date the Marsden hearing occurred, and the name of the new attorney appointed. I do not recall an instance where a conflict panel attorney has had a Marsden hearing granted since I started administering the conflict panel.

As a matter of policy, I will strongly discourage attorneys from being relieved during a Marsden hearing. Attorneys will be required to explain to the Court the amount of work done by the attorney in the case during any Marsden hearing. Any time an attorney is relieved after a Marsden hearing, I will interview the attorney and that interview will be considered as part of the evaluation process. Excessive Marsden hearings where counsel is relieved will be grounds for termination, as permitted by the law.

7. Training – Subcontracting attorneys are required to participate in meaningful and applicable continuing legal education.

8. Conflict of Interest Policy regarding Private Practice - Attorneys will be required to contractually agree to the following term:

Attorneys may engage in the private practice of law, including the defense of those charged with crimes or involved in juvenile court proceedings, provided that no private client shall be accepted which may cause a conflict of interest to arise whereby the contractor would not be able to represent any indigent who would otherwise be eligible for services under this contract.

A failure to abide by this term will constitute grounds for termination of contract.

Administrative Conflicts of Interest Strategy

One of the major issues in counties with a smaller populations is the accrual of conflicts of interest. As the administrator, I will manage the cases with a structure that minimizes the number of conflicts that attorneys acquire by assigning the cases according to 1. prior representation, and 2. evaluating conflicts of interest.

First, I will ensure that attorneys will accept appointments based on prior representation. That means that the same attorneys will represent the same clients on subsequent cases. For example, if I personally represent Client A and that case is closed but Client A is alleged to have committed a new offense at some point in the future, I will accept appointment to represent Client A on the new case so that none of the other attorneys acquire the potential of a new conflict.

Second, I will implement a conflict of interest evaluation process for attorneys as follows:

1. Attorneys will evaluate for conflicts on a case by case basis;
2. If the attorney believes that a legal conflict of interest exists, the attorney will submit to the administrator for evaluation; and
3. If the administrator agrees that a legal conflict exists, the administrator will then reassign the case to an attorney without a conflict of interest.

Over the last five and one half years, these strategies have proven to be extremely successful. Prior to 2019, attorneys who were not practicing as a conflict panel attorney were appointed represent clients. These attorneys were billing the county directly at an hourly rate with no supervision. From the invoices I have personally reviewed, these attorneys generally bill for unnecessary work and often utilize investigators to complete work that the attorney should be completing. The end result of having a substantial number of cases handled by attorneys who are off panel is a higher cost for the county in both attorney and ancillary costs. Since I implemented my strategies, only two clients in five and one half years have had court appointed counsel outside of the conflict panel attorneys. This was a substantial cost savings for the county.

Proposed Attorneys

At least one attorney will be available to accept appointment or specially appear for absent attorneys. All attorneys will be licensed with the California State Bar and contractually required to represent the client competently and vertically, from arraignment to the filing of a notice of appeal.

I intend on subcontracting with attorneys who have practiced or are currently practicing in Siskiyou County. I have worked side by side with the proposed attorneys in one capacity or another. I am very familiar with the various practice habits and styles of each of those attorneys. Aside from the contractual strategies and polices, performance evaluations, and training, I intend on letting each attorney practice according to his or her preference so long as each provide competent representation. In my opinion, each of the proposed attorneys far exceeds the bare minimum of competent representation and any shortcomings can be completely rectified through training that I provide.

Every attorney who I intend on subcontracting with has experience providing legal representation to indigent criminal defendants which requires communication skills, capacity to handle high volume caseloads in a rapidly paced structure, and refined case analysis skills, all of which promote long term sustainability.

Primary Attorneys

Joseph M. Ahart, SBN 238700

Benjamin Magid, SBN 321446

Allison Margolin, SBN 222370

Secondary Felony Attorneys

Jacob Levin, SBN 333724

Ryan Birss, SBN 296316

Felony Appointment Structure

The proposer will utilize a weekly rotation of three primary attorneys for appointment in felony cases. Each week, one of the three felony attorneys will accept appointment as the primary attorney. Attorneys will be appointed according to the following:

I will accept appointment on cases every other week. The two other primary attorneys will alternate acceptance of primary appointment on felony cases on the weeks that I am not the primary attorney. For example, I will accept first appointment to represent defendants for week one. Mr. Magid will accept first appointment to represent defendants for week two. I will for week three. Ms. Margolin for week four.

In the event of co-defendants, the attorney assigned to that particular week will accept the primary appointment while one of the secondary felony attorneys will accept the secondary appointment. For example, if there are two codefendants on the same case during week one, I will accept appointment for codefendant one, Mr. Birss or Mr. Levin will accept appointment for co-defendant two.

If neither of the three primary felony attorneys can represent a client because of conflicts, one of the secondary attorneys will accept appointment.

Misdemeanor and Juvenile Appointment Structure

Subject to the conflicts of interest strategies, for purposes of misdemeanors, juvenile delinquency, contempt and other miscellaneous actions, I will accept first appointment on all cases. If I have a conflict of interest, I will assign the case to one of the primary or secondary attorneys.

If the defendant alleged to have committed a misdemeanor also has a pending felony, the attorney representing the defendant on the felony matter will accept appointment on the misdemeanor.

Whichever attorney is scheduled to be in court on the dates necessary will accept appointment on cases where the client is a witness seeking advice for Fifth Amendment issues.

Administrative Review of Ancillary Services

This proposal does not include costs for investigative or other ancillary costs as such would create a conflict of interest. *See People v. Doolin* (2009) 45 Cal.4th 390. Even if including ancillary costs into this proposal were legally permitted, such would result in a greater cost for the county because the county would have to a lot funds for a budget amount that would exceed the cost of actual ancillary costs. That is, the county will only have the expense of actual ancillary costs rather than contracting for a budgeted amount and losing the surplus from that budget when actual expenses do not reach the budgeted amount.

In order to ensure that ancillary costs or minimized, I will review all requests for ancillary services by subcontracting attorneys and any attorneys appointed on cases predating the award of the contract. I will review and discuss the request with the attorney who is requesting the services. A copy of the request will be placed in the client's file, in my office, and lodged with the county. I will meet and confer with the county administration regarding the forms and process.

Although ancillary services are certainly necessary for effective assistance of counsel, the extent of those services for every case varies. For this reason, I will assess each request on a case by case basis, with an eye toward approving **only** ancillary services that are **necessary** to effectively represent the client in the particular case.

I will maintain receipts for all reimbursed expenses, which will delineate the defendant's name, case number, the provider, services provided, address of provider, hourly cost, breakdown of charges, any installment payment, other relevant information, total amount billed, and signature of the person authorizing the payment. A log of these receipts will be submitted to the County monthly along with an invoice from me requesting payment. I will maintain accounts and records, which sufficiently and properly reflect and

identify the direct costs of the representation (investigative, expert and other direct costs). I will submit all report(s) in a format approved by the County.

The county will recognize a cost savings by having an attorney, who is currently practicing in the county and knowledgeable about the law determining the necessity of services, reviewing requests for ancillary services. In my experience, the lack of administrative supervision of ancillary costs results in a substantial increase in expense to the county because many attorneys utilize investigators to complete work that the attorney should be completed themselves. With administrative supervision, that does not happen. Notably, over the course of the five and one half years I have contracted with Siskiyou County, the ancillary costs have shrunk by approximately ninety percent.

The proposer and the subcontract attorneys will be required to assist the Court and/or the county in the determination of whether a client has the financial ability to employ counsel and in determining the reasonable value of the attorney's services for legal representation. That assistance will include, but will not necessarily be limited to, requiring each client to file a financial statement under penalty of perjury within the time frame and in the format required by the Court. If it is determined by the Court (subsequent to the Court having appointed the attorney to represent a particular client) that the client has the financial ability to employ counsel, if relieved by the Court, the attorney thereafter will not be required to provide services for the client under the contract except in a proceeding to review the determination of that issue, or unless otherwise ordered by the Court.

Administrative Caseload Management

I will require that all cases be brought to my office for processing, which will include statistical tracking, calendar tracking, and creation of a case file. When the case is closed, the subcontracting attorney will return the case to my office and report that the case is closed. I will keep accurate caseload statistical analysis.

By the fifteenth working day of each calendar quarter, I will submit to the County Administrative Office, a report reflecting caseload data for the prior three month period.

I will retain client files in the manner of and for the time period required by California State Bar Ethics Formal Opinion Number 2001-157.

I will provide a reasonable means of releasing all client related materials, including but not limited to files, work notes, police reports, investigation reports, and expert reports to my successor in interest.

I will provide secure file storage facilities for retention of case files and storage of electronic information consistent with all state and federal privacy laws and the attorney-client privilege.

I will resolve any complaints, concerns and disputes arising from clients regarding appointed counsel.

Penal Code §187

Any attorneys qualified to handle case where a violation of Penal Code §187 may accept appointment where an allegation that the defendant violated Penal Code §187. I will provide attorneys for appointment on cases consisting of an allegation that the defendant violated Penal Code §187 and when the District Attorney is not seeking the death penalty.

Start Up and Transition Plan

Attorneys will accept appointment on cases by January 1, 2025 if the contract is awarded.

Proposer will be prepared to provide administrative services by January 1, 2025 if the contract is awarded.

Training

Certainly, administrative direction in cultivating trust with a client is important to minimizing costs for the county, creating a structure with long term sustainability and providing high quality legal services. But that’s not the end all. The attorneys must execute that direction and the attorneys must be educated on other areas of practice. Both occur through training on legal principles and practical application.

When I was a Deputy Public Defender under Neal Pereira, Jeff Gorder and Timothy Pappas, I personally presented MCLE trainings at the office. Because of our geographical isolation, MCLE trainings in the north state are sparse. I intend on securing MCLE provider status so that I can provide all the subcontracting attorneys and any county employed attorneys, legal training on legal principles and practical application.

Administrative Oversight and Performance Evaluation

The best way to evaluate the performance of attorneys is to watch them. I will observe and assess attorney performance during court proceedings. I will also assess attorney performance through interviews, discussions and training sessions with attorneys. I will also discuss performance of attorneys informally with the Court, staff and other counsel. I will conduct interviews with attorneys and audit files on a random basis. Although statistical analysis is an imperfect analysis tool, I will utilize caseload statistics to assess attorney work.

At the request of the Judges of the Siskiyou County Superior Court, any term of the contract that requires direct supervision and/or auditing of the files must be stricken and/or modified. The reason being is that I cannot directly supervise subcontracting attorneys as that would create a conflict of interest.

State of the Siskiyou County Criminal Justice Caseloads

According to statistics provided by the Siskiyou County Superior Court, the number of felonies filed per year from 2019 through 2023 ranged between 510 and 592 cases filed per year. The misdemeanor filings ranged between 910 and 1740 cases filed per year. The lowest number of cases were filed in 2020 (510 felonies and 910 misdemeanors) and were understandably down as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The overall filings have not increased significantly since 2019.

Year	Felony	Misdemeanor	PRCS
2019	523	1740	30
2020	510	990	14
2021	564	1152	12
2022	591	1111	6
2023	536	1303	12

However, the number of cases where the Siskiyou County Public Defender has declared a conflict of interest has increased dramatically.

Year	Felony	Misdemeanor	Violation of Probation	PRCS	Juvenile Petitions	Parental Termination
2019	172	252	59	6	5	2
2020	128	184	33	4	16	0
2021	155	170	32	6	26	3
2022	251	245	36	21	33	0
2023	270	359	105	20	51	1

Notably, the 2019 statistics include cases from the conflict panel attorneys who were appointed prior to 2019 but then had the new conflict panel attorneys appointed so the statistics are somewhat artificially inflated. Nevertheless, there is a steady increase in the caseloads that the conflict panel has been appointed to represent clients.

In 1973, the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (NAC) established that caseloads for a criminal defense attorneys should not exceed the following:

- felonies: 150 cases per year
- misdemeanors: 400 cases per year
- mental health cases: 200 cases per year
- juvenile cases: 200 cases per year
- appeals: 25 cases per year

Under this standard, the caseload for the conflict panel in 2023 required staffing of three full time attorneys for the felony, misdemeanor and juvenile caseloads. The NAC caseload requirements are silent about violations of probation, PRCS, parental termination and Fifth Amendment counsel caseloads. Taking those into consideration, the 2023 conflict panel required staffing of 4 full time attorneys.’

In 2023, the Rand Corporation published the National Public Defense Workload Study (“NPDWS”), which proposed that maximum caseloads per attorney be determined with a more case specific criteria that took into account the case types and expected attorney hours to expended on that case type. Under that criteria, the 2023 conflict panel required staffing of 7 full time attorneys.’

Remote Location

Because of Siskiyou County’s remote location and rural nature, recruiting and retaining attorneys is very difficult. The very small local criminal defense bar is unwilling to accept appointments on criminal cases. As such, all of the attorneys on the conflict panel commute from Shasta County or further away. Because of this travel, compensation must be lucrative enough to entice attorneys to travel to Siskiyou County.

Penal Code §1001.36

In 2018, the Mental Health Diversion Program was created through enactment of Penal Code §1001.36. This program aims to keep individuals with mental health issues away from incarceration and severe penalties for the individuals who qualify help them receive needed treatment and prevent future illegal activity.

For attorneys who are appointed to represent criminal defendants, the Mental Health Diversion Program has substantially increased the workload. Approximately half of the felony cases require additional legal work that was not contemplated by the caseload standards set by the PAC. This increased workload includes creating referral packets, obtaining medical records, conferring with mental professionals, conducting additional hearings, attending additional court dates, and filing petitions. A social worker has been funded through the Community Correction Partnership to assist in this workload but that funding was appropriated to the Siskiyou County Public Defender and the Siskiyou County Public Defender refuses to permit the social worker to assist indigent clients represented by the conflict panel, claiming that such would be a conflict of interest. As such, the attorneys on the conflict panel continue to shoulder the entire burden of the additional workload.

Inflation

Changes in the economy have resulted in what could be characterized as hyperinflation. According to Morgan Stanley Financial Advisor Terry Burke, there has been 25% inflation between end of 2018 and the current date. In contrast, the conflict panel budget has increased by a mere 10% over that same time period. As such, the current conflict panel is underfunded by at least 15% based upon inflation alone.

Comparable Compensation

Because all the attorneys on the conflict panel must be able to handle caseloads that include serious felony cases, the appropriate comparable compensation would be that of four full time senior/assistant public defenders, which including benefits, costs the county approximately \$225,000 per year. Additionally, the full time caseloads, as opposed to part time caseloads, limit the attorneys from obtaining other sources of income. For example, I have stopped taking private clients in felony cases in other counties, stopped accepting appointments in appellate cases and stopped taking private clients in family law matters, all because of the time requirements of the Siskiyou County caseloads. Without saying, my revenue sources have been drastically reduced, which means my law firm's ability to fund staffing and other overhead is limited to the revenue from the contract with Siskiyou County.

Considering the revenue limitations and high caseloads, this proposal includes funding of an officer manager of the same stature as the officer manager at the Siskiyou County Public Defender's Office, which including benefits, costs the county approximately \$125,000 per year. For the same reasons relating to the limitations with obtaining alternate sources of income because of the demands of the caseloads, overhead expenses including but not limited to insurance, office rents, legal services, interpreter services and office supplies in total cost the county approximately \$50,000 per year.

In total, the comparable compensation at the 2023 caseloads is \$1,075,000. Considering that the conflict panel is handling more felony cases and nearly the same number of other cases as the Siskiyou County Public Defender's Office, which has a budget of nearly two million dollars, the comparable compensation of \$1,075,000 is a relative bargain, especially considering that the conflict panel offers four levels of conflict where the Public Defender's Office offers one level of conflict.

Price Quote / Budget

Although it is anticipated that the Contract shall have a term of December, 1, 2025 through June 30, 2027 with two (2), one (1) year automatic renewals, this price quote provides for a six year quotation, the structure of the term to be subject to negotiations. This price quote and budget for providing services under the contract covers the total price for all services, excluding representation in homicide cases, to be provided under the contract for each calendar year over the six-year period of the contract. This quote is based upon the cost of having four full time attorneys, an administrator and an office manager, adjusted for 2.5% annual inflation:

2025: \$925,000.00
2026: \$925,000.00
2027: \$971,250.00
2028: \$971,250.00
2029: \$1,019,812.50
2030: \$1,019,812.50

A specific breakdown of the amounts to be allocated for contract attorneys, for administration, for support staff for the first calendar year of the six-year period of the contract:

\$750,000 – attorney and administrator fees
\$125,000 – office manager
\$50,000 – overhead costs (storage, office, supplies, insurance, research materials, training etc)

Subcontracting attorneys will be paid a flat monthly fee on the final day of each month. If a case goes before a jury, subcontracting attorneys will be paid an additional fee for each day after three complete trial days.

Cases with an alleged violation of Penal Code §187 (homicide cases) will be contracted separately from the flat monthly fee. The payment structure will be based on the procedural status of the case. Because qualified attorneys must travel from out of town and temporarily reside locally, an additional allowance for travel expenses is included.

First appointment: \$15,000
Arraignment on information: \$15,000
Completion of jury selection: \$10,000
Completion of trial: \$20,000
Travel expense allowance: up to \$5,000 reimbursement

A flat monthly fee for legal services is proposer's preferred compensation plan because this creates a long term relationship between the subcontracting attorneys, the administrator and the court system. Essentially, when subcontracting attorneys have guaranteed monthly fee agreements, attorneys have career incentives, increase their productivity, and invest in the system, all of which promote long term sustainability. In my experience, this compensation structure truly fosters a collaborative environment that will not only result in long term efficiency for the panel attorneys but also for the criminal justice system as a whole, which will result in efficiency gains for the county offices as well.

A separate compensation plan for homicide cases is proposer's preferred compensation plan because the frequency of homicides is not constant. So rather than propose a greater yearly compensation in order to create a budget reserve for potential homicides, the compensation plan will only bill for the cases as those cases arise which creates a substantial cost savings for the county. Furthermore, the compensation schedule only compensates for work completed, which creates an additional savings for the county.

Financial Statement

I certify that the Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc. is in good financial standing without any outstanding debts or liabilities.

Insurance Statement

I certify that the Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc. and all subcontractors will comply with all insurance requirements.

Statement of Negotiability

As an administrator, I am aware of the necessity to collaborate with the County Officials, the Court, and other members of the criminal justice community. In that respect, this proposal is merely the commencement of a long term, collaborative effort to provide cost effective, high quality legal representation and improve the criminal justice system. As such, all terms of this proposal are negotiable.

Specific Opt-Out Clauses

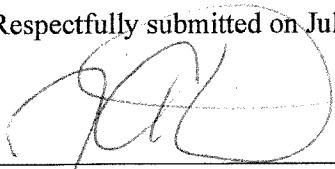
Subject to further negotiations, this proposal specifically opts out of the following clauses:

“The Contractor must assign Extraordinary Cases only to Subcontract Attorneys qualified to defend a Client in such a case.”

“If there is a determination by the Court, that as a matter of law, the Contractor and all the Subcontract Attorneys may not represent (an) otherwise eligible individual(s) because of a legal conflict of interest or, in the case of multiple parties, that fewer than the required number of Subcontract Attorneys may participate in the case because of a legal conflict of interest, then the Contractor will be required to hire and pay, at the Contractor's expense, outside independent attorney(s) to represent the individual(s), and such independent attorney(s) must meet(s) the criteria required of all Subcontract Attorneys.”

“The Contractor, and the Subcontract Attorneys, will be required to pay for any interpreter services desired by the Contractor, or any Subcontract Attorney, in communicating privately with any Clients. (Inexpensive services are available Page 10 of 39 at Language Line)”

Respectfully submitted on July 25, 2024.



Joseph M. Ahart

PROPOSAL SUMMARY AND CERTIFICATIONS

RFP Number: 24-01
RFP Issue Date: April 26, 2024
RFP Submission Deadline: July 29, 2024

Each Proposal must be submitted in a separate, **sealed** envelope, plainly marked "Response to Request for Proposal to provide Conflict Indigent Defense Services to the County of Siskiyou" and stamped as received by County Administration staff no later than 5pm July 29, 2024 to the CAO of Siskiyou County, 1312 Fairlane Road, Suite 1, Yreka CA 96097 or RFP_RFB_Submissions@co.siskiyou.ca.us.

Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to the County at 1312 Fairlane Road, Suite 1, Yreka CA 96097 or by email at RFP_RFB_Submissions@co.siskiyou.ca.us.

Vendor Authorized Representative

Company Name: Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc.
Representative Name: Joseph Ahart
Title: president
Phone: (530) 246 4397 Fax: (530) 248 2701
Email: josephahartlaw@gmail.com
Address: PO Box 992171 Redding, CA 96099
Federal Tax ID No.: 47-1519084

RFP Contact Information (if different from above)

Contact Person: _____
Title: _____
Phone: _____ Fax: _____
Email: _____

Certifications:

1. Do you agree to comply with specifications, RFP instructions, draft Contract requirements and other pertinent references contained in this RFP?

YES NO

2. Do you agree that the information and costs provided in the Proposal will remain unchanged and will not be withdrawn for a period of 90 days after the submission deadline?

YES NO

3. Do you certify that all statements contained within the submitted Proposal are true, and acknowledge that if the Proposal is found to contain any false statements, the County may declare any agreement or contract made as a result of the Proposal to be void?

YES NO

4. Do you agree to provide the County with any other information the County determines is necessary for accurate determination of your qualifications to provide the requested services?

YES NO

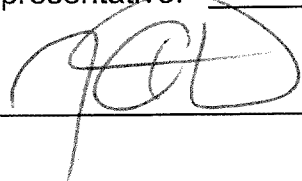
5. Do you certify that the proposal includes all costs incident to the proposed Contract?

YES NO

If the answer to any question is "NO," please explain: _____

I certify that to the best of my knowledge, my responses to the above statements are true and correct.

Authorized Representative: Joseph Ahart
(Printed Name)

Signature:  Date: 7/25/24

STATEMENT OF EXPERIENCE

SECTION A

Business Name: Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc. Phone: (530) 246 4357

Address: Po Box 992171

City: Redding State: CA ZIP: 96099

Business Status:

- Non-Profit Corporation
- Corporation
- General Partnership
- Limited Partnership
- Sole Proprietorship
- Other: _____

Name and title of officer or owner authorized to sign this proposal and any contract with the county that may result.

Name: Joseph Ahart Title: president
(Include additional names and titles as applicable.) (Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION B

Number of years in business under present business name? 11

Other Business Name(s): _____

Number of years under prior name? _____

California State Bar License Number: 238700

Current Status: active

Admission Date: 12/2005

Have you had any Disciplinary and Related Actions and/or Administrative Actions affecting your eligibility to practice law in California or any other state in the United States?

Yes or No

If "Yes", please explain: _____
(Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION C

Number of years' experience providing required, equivalent, or related services?

18 years

SECTION D

Contracts completed with other counties or courts for similar services during the last five years:

Year	Services	\$ Amount	Location	Contracting Agency
1. <u>2013-2018</u>	<u>Indigent defense</u>		<u>Redding, CA</u>	<u>Jeff Jens</u>
2. <u>2014-2020</u>	<u>Dependency Admis.</u>		<u>Redding, CA</u>	<u>Superior Court of Calif. Shasta</u>
3. <u>2012-present</u>	<u>Indigent Defense</u>		<u>Yreka, CA</u>	<u>Siskiyou County</u>

(Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION E

Names of persons with whom you or your Firm has been associated in business as partners or business associates in the last five years. (Governmental agencies are exempt)

n/a

(Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION F

Explain any litigation filed against you, your Firm, or any principle officer(s) thereof:

n/a

(Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION G

Please attach a copy of your Firm's most current financial statement. *-upon request*

If requested by the County, would you or your Firm agree to provide letters of credit, and guarantor letters from related entities? Yes No

SECTION H

Please provide a list of commitments and potential commitments which may impact assets, lines of credit, guarantors' letters, or otherwise affect your or your Firm's ability to perform.

n/a

(Add additional pages if needed)

SECTION I

If the nature of the services requires business or professional licenses, are such licenses held by you and/or your Firm and its staff? Yes No

Please list each required business or professional license:

License Number	Type	Expiration Date
<i>238700</i>	<i>license to practice law</i>	

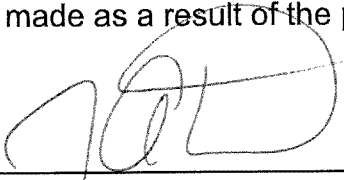
SECTION J

Do you and your Firm agree to provide additional information as required by the County to make an informed determination of qualifications? Yes No

If "No" please explain: _____

ATTACHMENT B

By signing this Statement of Experience, you are certifying that all information provided on this form and contained within your proposal are true, and you acknowledge that if the proposal contains any false statements, the County may declare any contract or agreement made as a result of the proposal to be void.

Signed:  _____ Date: 7/25/24

Title: president _____

Joseph Ahart

P.O. Box 992171
Redding, CA 96099

(530) 246 4357

josephahartlaw@gmail.com

Objective To provide administrative and legal services to indigent defendants in the Siskiyou County Superior Court

Experience **Sole Practitioner**

Law Office of Joseph M. Ahart, Inc., Redding, CA June 2013 - present

Contracted with the County of Siskiyou to provide and administer legal services for indigent clients where the Public Defender had a conflict of interest

Contracted with the Shasta County Superior Court to provide and administer legal services for all court appointed attorneys in juvenile dependency cases

Provided legal representation to indigent clients in the felony and misdemeanor departments of the Shasta, Siskiyou and Lassen County Superior Courts

Provided legal representation to indigent clients in the Third and Fifth District Courts of Appeal in conjunction with the Central California Appellate Program

Provided legal representation to indigent clients in juvenile dependency cases in the Lassen County Superior Court

Provided legal representation to the children in guardianship matters and gravely disabled persons in conservatorship matters in the probate department of the Shasta County Superior Court

Provided legal representation to private clients in felony and misdemeanor departments of the Siskiyou, Trinity, Tehama and Shasta Superior Courts

Deputy Public Defender III

Shasta County Public Defender's Office, Redding, CA November 2006 – June 2013

Provided legal representation to indigent clients in the juvenile delinquency, felony, misdemeanor and appellate departments of Shasta County Superior Court

Provided legal representation to the children in guardianship matters and gravely disabled in conservatorship matters in the probate department of the Shasta County Superior Court

Member of the collaborative justice team administering the Intoxicated Driver's Program (IDP) in the misdemeanor department of the Shasta County Superior Court

Provided legal representation to criminal defendants entering and engaged in the Addicted Offender Program

Provided MCLE training regarding taking a holistic approach to preparing clients to successfully complete terms of probation and other various legal points; mentored and trained Deputy Public Defenders; developed efficient practice strategies for fellow Deputy Public Defenders

Associate Attorney

Rich, Fudge, Morris and Lane, Marysville, CA January 2006 – November 2006

Provided legal representation to parties in dissolution and child custody matters in both the Yuba County and Sutter County Superior Courts

Provided legal representation to clients in the felony and misdemeanor departments of the Yuba, Sutter, Butte and Yolo County Superior Courts

Certified Law Clerk

Sutter County District Attorney's Office May 2004 – June 2006

Conducted preliminary hearings and court trials; researched legal points and drafted motions and responses in homicide, felony vandalism, driving under the influence, juvenile proceedings and other criminal cases; attended meetings consisting of senior prosecutors, defense attorneys and probation officers; developed a law and motion database and revised existing law and motion documents for future use

Education

Juris Doctorate

University of California, Hastings, San Francisco, CA May 2005

Bachelor of Arts

Political Science University of California, Berkeley, Berkeley, CA May 2002

Licensing

Admitted to practice law under California State Bar Number 238700

ATTACHMENT D

RYAN BIRSS

SBN # 296316

1650 Oregon St. Suite 108 · Redding, CA 96001 · (530) 276-0410 · ryan@ryanhbirss.com

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law, San Francisco, CA

Juris Doctor, December 2013 (Cumulative GPA: 3.306)

Hastings Law Journal, Editorial Staff Member / Articles Editor, 2012 – 2013

Author of *Alito's Way: Application of Justice Alito's Concurring Opinion in United States v. Jones to Cell Phone Location Data*, 65 *Hastings L.J.* 899 (2014)

General Assistance Advocacy Project, *Volunteer Advocate*, 2009 – 2012

University of Oregon, Eugene, OR

Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*, Political Science and Business Administration, June 2009

EXPERIENCE

Ryan H. Birss, Attorney at Law, Redding, CA

Attorney, October 2018 – Present

Owned and operated a law practice focused exclusively on criminal defense including a hybrid of privately retained clients and court appointed cases through the Shasta County and Siskiyou County Conflict Panels

Tried over twenty cases to verdict including but not limited to three homicide cases, four life sex cases, robbery, torture, aggravated mayhem, attempted murder, driving under the influence, domestic violence, criminal threats, possession for sale, possession of stolen property and over ten cases resulted in acquittals

Argued numerous complicated motions including Motions for New Trial, Romero Motions, Motions to Suppress, Motions to set Aside the Information, and Motions to Dismiss in the interest of justice, and Motions for Mental Health Diversion

Assisted in placing defendants in drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs

Berg and Associates, Redding, CA

Associate Attorney, June 2014 – September 2018

Appeared in court and administrative hearings as the lead attorney in two felony and one misdemeanor trials, over 20 preliminary hearings, family law trials, felony and misdemeanor arraignments, plea dispositions, Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions to Set Aside Information, DMV license revocation hearings, restraining order hearings, civil depositions, small claim appeals, marijuana abatement hearings, civil forfeiture proceedings, and traffic court

Assisted lead attorney in preparation for criminal trials, and preliminary hearings, by drafting direct and cross examination questions, reviewing discovery, writing pretrial motions, interviewing witnesses, and providing general trial assistance

RYAN BIRSS

SBN # 296316

1650 Oregon St. Suite 108 · Redding, CA 96001 · (530) 276-0410 · ryan@ryanbirss.com

Interviewed and retained clients regarding criminal defense, complying with local medical marijuana ordinances, and forming medical marijuana collectives
Drafted Motions to Suppress, Motions to Traverse a Warrant, Speedy Trial Motions, Motions to Reveal a Confidential Informant, Mitigation Statements, and a Civil Rights Complaint

Solano County Public Defender, Fairfield, CA

Post Bar Law Clerk, March – May 2014

Appeared on the record for pretrial misdemeanor proceedings, Motions to Suppress, *Pitchess* motions, and probation modifications
Drafted Motions to Suppress Evidence, Speedy Trial Motions, Motions to Dismiss Information, Writs, and Appeals

San Francisco Public Defender, San Francisco, CA

Certified Legal Intern, January – May 2013, August 2013 – December 2013

Appeared on the record for felony arraignments, preliminary hearings, and motions including Motions to Return Property, Motions to Suppress, Motions to Dismiss Information, Motions to Reduce Bail, and discovery motions
Drafted Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions to Dismiss Information and a response to a Motion to Squash a Subpoena served on Facebook
Assisted with two homicide investigations

Office of the State Public Defender, Oakland, CA

Intern, June – August 2013

Researched appealable trial issues for capital cases
Worked on both direct appeal and habeas corpus cases

County of San Diego, Office of the Primary Public Defender, San Diego, CA

Certified Legal Intern, May – August 2012

Appeared on the record for misdemeanor arraignments, further proceedings, and motions
Drafted Motions to Suppress and a Motion to Dismiss Charges Pursuant to the First Amendment

The Honorable Claire Maier and the Honorable Rebecca Hardie, Contra Costa Superior Court, Martinez and Pittsburg, CA

Extern, June – August 2011

Drafted over ten memorandums recommending how judges should rule on criminal law motions, including Motions to Suppress Evidence, Motions to Dismiss Information, and Motions to Return Property

BENJAMIN EUGENE MAGID

ben@magidlawoffice.com
P.O. Box 2965 Weaverville CA 96093
(559) 975-6041

EXPERIENCE

Magid Law Office, Weaverville & Redding, CA; May 2021- Present

Owner

- Defend indigent and non-indigent criminal defendants in Trinity, Shasta, Siskiyou, and Tehama Counties.
- Represent parents and children in Dependency proceedings in Shasta and Trinity Counties.
- Represent petitioners and respondents in civil matters, including restraining orders and property disputes.

Trinity County District Attorney, Weaverville, CA; August 2020 – May 2021

Deputy District Attorney II

- Prosecuted misdemeanors and felonies, including serious and violent felonies.
- Prosecuted matters in Juvenile Delinquency Court.

Fitzgerald, Alvarez & Ciummo, Madera County Public Defender, Madera, CA; April 2019 – August 2020

Deputy Public Defender

- Defended indigent clients at all phases of misdemeanor and felony proceedings.
- Represented clients in Conservatorship and Child Support proceedings.

The Ticket Clinic, Los Angeles, CA; June 2018 – April 2019

Criminal Defense Attorney

- Defended clients in traffic and misdemeanor proceedings.

Cox, Castle & Nicholson LLP, Century City, Los Angeles, CA; May 2013 - May 2014

Real Estate Attorney

- Member of Institutional Investor and Asia-Pacific Groups.
- Represented Chinese and Taiwanese investors in connection with large commercial real estate transactions throughout Southern California.

Energy Logistics, New York City; Beijing, China; 2006 - 2009

Regional Sales Manager, Asia-Pacific Territory

- Managed sales representatives and subcontractors in China, Taiwan, Korea, and India.
- Managed customer relations and delivered on-site sales presentations at manufacturing facilities in China, Taiwan, Korea, India, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Philippines.

EDUCATION

Temple University Beasley School of Law, Philadelphia, PA; January 2013

J.D.; *cum laude*

- Semester abroad at Tel Aviv University Buchmann Faculty of Law; Tel Aviv, Israel.
- Semester abroad at Tsinghua University School of Law; Beijing, China.

University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA; March 2018

Master of Fine Arts in English, *cum laude*

- Taught composition, rhetoric, and fiction writing to undergraduate students.

University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA; April 2006

Bachelor of Arts in Chinese Language; *magna cum laude*

- Year abroad at Hamilton College Associated Colleges in China; Beijing, China
- Semester abroad at Princeton in Beijing Advanced Chinese Language Program; Beijing, China

MILITARY SERVICE

United States Marine Corps; 1997 – 2001

- Basic Training: Parris Island, SC
- Marine Combat Training: Camp Lejeune, SC
- Defense Finance and Accounting Service: Pearl Harbor, HI

ALLISON B. MARGOLIN

ATTORNEY | AUTHOR

Allison@allisonmargolin.com

(310) 717-1159

Over **two decades** of experience in **criminal defense**, including serious and violent crimes, throughout **California**

- Approximately 25 jury trials to verdict
- Hundreds of preliminary hearings and plea dispositions

Handling **writs and appeals**

- Member of the Misdemeanor Appellate panel for LA Superior Court
- Authored approximately 35 state writs

EXPERIENCE

Allison B. Margolin, PLC <i>Founder</i>	2022 - Present
Margolin & Lawrence <i>Founding Partner</i>	2011 - 2021
The Margolin Law Office <i>Senior Partner</i>	2010 - 2011
Law Office of Allison B. Margolin <i>Partner</i>	2004 - 2010
University of West LA School of Law <i>Adjunct Professor</i>	2008
Second Verdict (TV Show) <i>Legal Consultant</i>	2004
Law Office of Bruce M. Margolin <i>Associate</i>	2003

EDUCATION

Harvard Law School <i>J.D.</i>	1999 - 2002
Columbia University <i>B.A. Political Science</i> <i>Certificate in Creative Writing, Magna Cum Laude</i>	1995 - 1999

WRITING

Just Dope: A Leading Attorney's Personal Journey Inside the War on Drugs <i>North Atlantic Books</i>	2022
Jury Nullifications and Reasonable Doubt <i>Selection From 'Beyond a Reasonable Doubt'</i>	2007
On the Right to Get High <i>Harvard Law School</i>	2002

AWARDS

Super Lawyers	2018 - 2024
Southern California Rising Stars	2010 - 2012 2015 - 2017

Jacob Levin

2805 Pioneer Drive, Apt. 50

l Redding, CA 96001 ▪ Jacoblevin84@gmail.com ▪ 415-481-1502

Education

University of California Hastings College of the Law, J.D. 2018

President, Hasting Public Speaking Association (HPSA)

Vice President, Hastings Jewish Law Students Association (HJLSA)

Student Leader of the Year Award, 2015

Admissions Policy Committee Member 2015-2016

Excelsior College, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Liberal Arts, July 2014 Mir Yeshiva, Jerusalem, Israel 2000 – 2004

College level study program. Jewish Law, the Talmud, Ethics and Philosophy.

Work Experience

Jacob Levin Law – March 2021 – present Conducted 12 jury trials and 50 bench trials; legal writing and research; write motions, briefs, trial prep, demand letters; experience with a wide variety of criminal and family law cases.

Berg & Associates – Law Clerk – November 2018 – 2020 Conducted legal writing and research; wrote motions, briefs, trial prep, demand letters; experience with a wide variety of criminal and family law cases.

Shasta County District Attorney's Office – Intern Summer 2018 Conducted preliminary hearings, 995 hearings, arraignments; legal writing and research

San Francisco District Attorney's Office – Intake (Rebooking) – Spring Intern (part time) Conducted research, reviewed criminal complaints

San Francisco District Attorney's Office – General Felonies – Fall Intern – (full time), 2017 Wrote and argued motions, (1101b, 1181.1, 995, 1538.5) conducted preliminary hearings, arraignments, pre-trial conferences. Speaks with police officers, victims.

San Francisco District Attorney's Office – Homicide Unit - Summer Intern (full time), 2017

Assisted in trial preparation; prepared opening statement and closing arguments, cross examination; assisted in voir dire; kept detailed trial notebook researched legal insanity, responded to motions.

Hebrew School Teacher, Temple Israel of Alameda 09/2015 (Sundays) – 2019

Teaches 5th/6th grade children Jewish history, holidays, philosophy.

The Law Offices of Rebecca Feigelson – Summer Intern, 2016

Prepared motions including motions to set aside a plea; motion to reduce felony to misdemeanor, plea agreements; conducted legal research including sentencing guidelines, asset forfeiture; Tree Strikes sentencing laws, attorney fees, jury instructions' Wrote successful sentencing memos.