

**CONTRACT FOR PAYMENTS RELATED TO ATTORNEY SERVICES  
PROVIDED TO INDIGENT DEFENDANTS  
(HEREINAFTER REGISTRY CONTRACT) (Fiscal Year 2024-25)**

This Registry Contract entered into by and between the Justice Administrative Commission, a Commission of the State of Florida (JAC), and

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an attorney (Attorney), and \_\_\_\_\_  
a legal entity (if applicable) (Legal Entity). For purposes of this Registry Contract, Attorney means any individual attorney or legal entity, such as a law firm or partnership registered with the Florida Department of State, approved pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S., to provide legal services for indigent persons. For compensation and tax reporting purposes, payments pursuant to this Registry Contract shall be made payable only to the holder of the Tax Identification (Tax ID) number designated at the end of this Registry Contract. Unless a waiver is granted by JAC, Attorney is required to utilize a Federal Employer Identification Number (FEIN). If Attorney is permitted to use a Social Security Number, Attorney assumes the risks associated with such use including, but not limited to, interception, misuse, and identity theft. Payment by JAC under this Registry Contract may only be made to the undersigned Attorney or the Legal Entity. The obligations of this Registry Contract apply equally to Attorney and Legal Entity. Any breach of a provision of this Registry Contract by Attorney under the authority or supervision of Legal Entity shall also constitute a breach of this Registry Contract by the Legal Entity. If Legal Entity is the party approved pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S., to be appointed to cases, this Registry Contract is the basis under which the services of Attorney shall be provided and compensated.

This Registry Contract applies to all appointments made pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S., including appointments made pursuant to a court-appointed registry implemented under s. 27.40(3), F.S., and off-registry appointments made pursuant to s. 27.40(7)(a), F.S.

In consideration of the mutual covenants and provisions contained herein, the parties agree as follows:

This Registry Contract supersedes and terminates all prior Agreements or Contracts for Payments Related to Attorney Services between Attorney and JAC for court appointments pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S. The provisions of this Registry Contract shall apply to all private court-appointments made pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S., through the termination date of this Registry Contract including appointments made under prior Registry Contracts. The provisions of this Registry Contract shall apply to all billings submitted by the Attorney subsequent to effective date of this Registry Contract regardless of whether the services were incurred prior to the effective date of this Registry Contract.

**I. TERM**

The term of this Registry Contract shall be for a period beginning on the date of execution by JAC through June 30, 2025, unless suspended or terminated sooner as provided

herein. If it becomes necessary to replace this Registry Contract with another Registry Contract, then the new Registry Contract shall supersede and terminate this Registry Contract.

## II. SERVICES AND GENERAL PROVISIONS

### **SERVICES**

1. Attorney contracts with JAC to provide legal services for indigent person(s) constitutionally or statutorily entitled to the appointment of counsel for the categories of cases as provided by the Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act. JAC shall not provide compensation for any category of case not listed in the Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act. Attorney shall not seek compensation or reimbursement by JAC for fees, costs, or related expenses except for those categories of cases specifically delineated in the Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act. The indigent person(s) represented is deemed to be the client (Client) of Attorney or Legal Entity appointed by the court.

2. Attorney shall personally perform the legal services required for the case. Attorney shall at all times comply with all requirements of the Florida Statutes, the Rules Regulating The Florida Bar, and the practice and procedures of the Florida state courts. Attorney may not reassign or subcontract any appointed case or portion thereof to another attorney or bill for work performed by another attorney. This limitation on subcontracting, reassigning, or billing shall include associates or partners of Attorney's law firm regardless of whether the associate or partner is on the registry. Attorney waives the right to seek compensation for work performed by any other attorney. Attorney shall not bill for work performed by a paralegal, secretary (or other similar clerical office support), legal assistant, administrative assistant, or any other employee of Attorney's law practice. Attorney shall not bill for clerical or secretarial work, or work of a similar nature, performed by Attorney. Attorney shall not bill for overhead expenses either directly or indirectly through a due process vendor. Overhead expenses include, but are not limited to, expenses associated with postage, courier services, internal or in-house copying, telephone charges including long distance and collect calls, and computerized research services such as Westlaw and LexisNexis. Attorney shall not bill for purchase of computer equipment including portable flash and hard drives and other storage media, portable devices such as MP3 players, office equipment, office supplies, legal materials, books, personal items, haircuts, manicures, or other such personal services for the Client. Attorney may only be compensated for services reasonably necessary for defense of the case.

3. Attorney shall provide to Client all professional legal services reasonably required related to case-related pending matters from the time of appointment through conclusion.

4. Attorney shall provide competent representation to the Client.

5. Except as provided in this Registry Contract, Attorney agrees to complete all cases assigned to Attorney, even though completion of the case may occur beyond the term of this Registry Contract. Unless the court discharges Attorney or allows Attorney to withdraw, or Attorney is deemed to have withdrawn upon the Client's retention of private counsel, Attorney shall complete the case to final disposition. If Attorney seeks to withdraw from a case, Attorney shall serve JAC with the motion to withdraw. Compensation for cases that remain open beyond the term of this Registry Contract shall be subject to this Registry Contract unless superseded by another Registry Contract. At the time of entry of judgment or sentencing in each case appointed under this Registry Contract, Attorney shall be prepared to make a good faith estimate of the total amount of fees, costs, and related expenses as may be needed to protect the State's interest in recovery of costs under s. 938.29 or s. 985.203, F.S.

6. For any death penalty case in which the court has appointed Attorney as co-counsel, if the State thereafter waives the death penalty, Attorney shall immediately move to withdraw from the case. A copy of the motion shall be served upon JAC at least ten (10) business days before the hearing on said motion. If Attorney fails to move to withdraw, Attorney shall not seek nor accept compensation for work performed after the death penalty was waived.

7. After final disposition, if the Client wishes to appeal, prior to discharge, Attorney shall file the appropriate documents with the court and request the court make a finding as to whether the Client remains indigent for purposes of appeal. Attorney shall advise the court of any changed circumstances that involve the issue of indigency. Where the Client wishes to appeal, Attorney shall comply with the requirements of the Florida Rules of Appellate Procedure including, but not limited to, filing a notice of appeal, a statement of judicial acts to be reviewed, directions to the clerk, and designations for transcription of those portions of the proceedings necessary to support the statement of judicial acts to be reviewed. Attorney shall take those steps necessary to ensure and verify that the record is properly transmitted to the appellate court regardless of the date of Attorney's discharge.

8. If Attorney files a notice of appeal on behalf of a Client, Attorney shall take those steps necessary to ensure that the appellate record is prepared including the filing of a designation of the record on appeal. In designating hearings for transcription, Attorney shall only designate those hearings at which Attorney reasonably believes that reversible error may have occurred. In criminal cases, these hearings typically include jury selection, trial, sentencing, and other proceedings necessary to support the issues on appeal as set forth in the statement of judicial acts to be reviewed. In Ch. 39, F.S., proceedings, these hearings typically include adjudicatory hearings, dispositional hearings, and other proceedings necessary to support the issues on appeal. In Ch. 39, F.S., proceedings, Attorney shall not have hearings such as judicial reviews and status conferences transcribed unless appellate counsel specifically requests that those proceedings be transcribed.

9. Pursuant to s. 29.007, F.S., the scope of Attorney's representation is limited to proceedings in state court (or other state administrative proceedings as authorized by law) except for a petition for writ of certiorari to the United States Supreme Court following affirmation of a death sentence following direct appeal to the Florida Supreme Court. Attorney acknowledges that JAC is not liable to pay attorney fees, costs or related expenses for any other representation in federal court.

### **CASE OPENING**

10. No later than ninety (90) days following appointment, Attorney shall open a case through the *MyJAC* case opening system. Attorney must have an open case in order to submit any motion or billing for attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses. When opening the case, Attorney shall provide JAC a copy of the court's order of appointment that clearly indicates the name of the judge, the style of the case, and the case number. It is Attorney's sole responsibility to obtain and provide an order of appointment within the time frames specified in this subsection. In criminal cases, Attorney shall provide JAC a copy of the charging document and any sentence-enhancing document with the order of appointment. If a charging document is never filed, the Attorney shall provide JAC a copy of the face-sheet of the docket or other court document which delineates the charges against the Defendant. In civil cases other than those brought under Ch. 39 or Ch. 63, F.S., the Attorney shall provide a copy of the pleading that initiated the case. In proceedings brought under Ch. 39 or Ch. 63, F.S., the Attorney shall provide a sufficient portion of the pleading that initiated the case to identify the Client's children involved including their full names and dates of birth. Attorney shall indicate on orders appointing a Legal Entity, the name and The Florida Bar number of the attorney assigned to the case. The timely opening of cases and submission of orders of appointment is essential and critical to this Registry Contract. If Attorney fails to open the case and provide JAC with the order of appointment within the time frames specified by this subsection, the allowable attorney fees may be reduced by \$25 as an administrative processing fee. This fee shall not apply if the attorney fees are subject to a penalty for untimely billing under the provisions of this Registry Contract. If the court discharges Attorney from the case or grants a motion to withdraw prior to the conclusion of the case and another private attorney is appointed or was previously appointed, if Attorney has not already done so, Attorney shall open the case with JAC within ninety (90) days from the date of discharge or withdrawal. If Attorney fails to open a case within ninety (90) days from date of discharge or withdrawal, Attorney shall be deemed to have waived the right to any attorney fees when the case reaches final disposition.

### **TRAVEL EXPENSES**

11. To obtain reimbursement for travel expenses for Attorney, due process vendors, or witnesses, Attorney must follow the requirements set forth in s. 112.061, F.S.; the Department of Financial Services (DFS) Regulations; and JAC Policies and Procedures. JAC's specific travel procedures are posted on JAC's website, and Attorney shall abide by these procedures. Attorney may bill only for authorized travel expenses. Attorney must obtain a court order identifying the approved traveler and the purpose of the travel. If any

hotel rate will exceed \$225 per night, Attorney shall include the hotel rate in the motion seeking authorization for travel expenses. Any time spent by Attorney or a due process vendor making travel arrangements and preparing travel vouchers is considered clerical work and is therefore not billable. Attorney must submit a completed DFS approved travel voucher with any request for reimbursement for travel expenses including, but not limited to, any request for reimbursement for mileage. When authorized, mileage will only be reimbursed for distances exceeding fifty (50) miles one way. Reimbursement for mileage is limited to actual mileage traveled using a personal vehicle. JAC reimburses for the actual mileage incurred during a trip. When Attorney travels on multiple cases, the total amount of mileage billed across those cases cannot exceed the actual distance traveled. Attorney cannot seek reimbursement for the same mileage traveled in more than one case. Mileage must be apportioned appropriately so that Attorney receives compensation for the actual mileage traveled using a personal vehicle. Failure to submit a properly completed travel voucher constitutes a waiver of any right to obtain travel expenses. If Attorney is approved for a registry outside of the circuit in which Attorney's office is located, JAC reserves the right to object to travel time, mileage, lodging, and any other travel expenses to travel to the circuit of the case. Attorney waives the right to seek travel time, mileage, or other travel expenses to travel to the circuit of a case absent exceptional circumstances warranting an out-of-circuit appointment.

12. Attorney travel should be limited to travel necessary for the defense of the case. Attorney should consider alternatives to attorney travel whenever feasible. For depositions for which appearing in person would result in significant travel expenses or travel time, Attorney should consider alternatives to appearing in person such as conducting the deposition through the use of communications equipment including videoconferencing technology or telephones.

13. In appropriate circumstances and at its discretion, JAC may prepay for travel expenses for ordinary witnesses. Prepayment is generally limited to purchase of airline tickets and hotel rooms. Travel expenses of Attorney and due process vendors is through reimbursement only. If JAC prepays for travel expenses for ordinary witnesses, any credit or refund as a result of changes to the reservation or for cancellation is due to the State of Florida and should be directed to JAC in the manner directed by JAC. Attorney is responsible for ensuring that any credit or refund is directed to JAC. For JAC to prepay travel expenses, Attorney must supply JAC with all necessary documentation to arrange the travel and a DFS travel voucher signed by the traveler and Attorney as soon as feasible following the completion of any prepaid travel. Attorney is responsible for notifying JAC of any requested changes to travel arrangements as soon as feasible. Attorney will be responsible for any increases in travel expenses that result from a failure to notify JAC promptly.

### ***SERVICE OF PLEADINGS***

14. Service of motions, orders, and other pleadings shall be served in the manner directed by the Registry Contract and JAC Policies and Procedures. Attorney stipulates that a motion, order, or other legal pleading shall not be deemed served on JAC pursuant

to the Florida Rules of Court Procedure until served on JAC in the manner required by the Registry Contract and the JAC Policies and Procedures. Attorney shall provide JAC orders granting or authorizing payment attorney fees, due process costs, and/or related expenses within five (5) business days of Attorney's receipt of the order.

### **COMMUNICATIONS WITH JAC**

15. Attorney shall maintain sufficient internet capability, including an email account, to communicate with JAC. Attorney agrees to accept communications including Audit Deficiencies and Letters of Objection or No Objection via email. Any email address registered with JAC must belong to Attorney, Legal Entity, or other persons directly affiliated with Attorney's firm or practice.

16. Attorney agrees to accept legal pleadings including, but not limited to, responses to motions for attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses by email. Attorney waives the mailing of any such legal pleadings as a prerequisite to legal service of any legal pleading received by email or other manner prescribed by JAC.

17. Attorney shall affix Attorney's name and The Florida Bar number on all communications addressed to JAC. Attorney shall keep JAC informed at all times of Attorney's current name, address, and telephone numbers, email address, and Tax ID number. Notification of changes shall be provided to JAC in *MyJAC*. Attorney shall be responsible for keeping JAC informed of the name, address, telephone number, email address, and Tax ID number of due process vendors utilized by Attorney.

18. Attorney shall not send more than one (1) electronic copy of any legal pleading or other document to JAC. Prior to resubmitting any document, Attorney shall verify that JAC has not received the document.

19. Attorney or Attorney's firm shall own, possess, or have routine access to a computer, portable drive(s) (or other storage media capable of receiving electronic discovery), a printer, and a scanner.

20. JAC provides a secure website, *MyJAC*, through which Attorney and any authorized representative(s) may track billings, open new cases, submit billings, and execute contracts with JAC. Attorney is responsible for registering for an account on *MyJAC*. Attorney will only allow persons authorized by Attorney to have access to Attorney's *MyJAC* account. Attorney is liable for the actions of any authorized persons as if Attorney had performed the action personally including, but not limited to, submitting or signing documents on behalf of Attorney. Attorney has the sole responsibility for maintaining security of Attorney's *MyJAC* account including, but not limited to, changing passwords for the account if an authorized person leaves Attorney's employ. For security purposes, Attorney grants JAC the authority to collect client internet protocol (IP) addresses and browser information when Attorney logs onto *MyJAC*.

## ***ELECTRONIC FUNDS TRANSFER***

21. Attorney shall participate in a direct-deposit program under which Attorney authorizes the transfer of funds electronically to an account in the Attorney's or Legal Entity's name at a federal-chartered or state-chartered financial institution. If Attorney seeks an exemption from this provision, Attorney must submit in writing a request for exemption specifically delineating why Attorney cannot comply with this provision. JAC may exempt Attorney from compliance with this provision only if JAC determines that participation in a direct-deposit program creates a financial hardship for Attorney.

## ***ATTORNEY QUALIFICATIONS***

22. Attorney represents that he or she is a member in good standing of The Florida Bar and meets at least the minimum experience and continuing education requirements as established pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S. Attorney shall, throughout the term of this Registry Contract, be a member in good standing with The Florida Bar.

23. As soon as Attorney becomes aware but no later than thirty (30) days, Attorney must notify JAC and the Chief Judge of each circuit in which Attorney participates in a court-appointed registry of the following: any disciplinary or other circumstances that could prohibit an attorney from practicing law such as suspension, disciplinary revocation, disbarment, placement on the inactive list for incapacity, or retirement from The Florida Bar; any appointed cases in which there is a judicial finding that Attorney provided ineffective assistance of counsel; and any disciplinary action against Attorney where probable cause has been found.

24. Attorney shall notify JAC of any change in status or information pertinent to the Registry Contract including, but not limited to, qualifications, employment status, Florida Bar status, acceptance of any employment or independent contractor relationship with a state agency, removal from a court-appointed registry or case, pending criminal charges, and contact information. JAC may suspend or terminate the Registry Contract for failure to maintain attorney qualifications pursuant to the provisions of the Registry Contract. Attorney must notify JAC if Attorney accepts employment or contracts with an office that JAC administratively serves to provide representation to the office's clients. The offices that JAC administratively serves include the offices of the state attorney, the offices of the public defender, the offices of the criminal conflict and civil regional counsel, the offices of the capital collateral regional counsel, and the statewide guardian ad litem office.

25. It shall be the sole responsibility of Attorney to comply with all applicable federal, state, county, and municipal statutes, ordinances, rules, and regulations in the performance of Attorney's obligations under this Registry Contract.

## ***INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR***

26. The parties agree that this Registry Contract does not create the relationship of attorney and client between Attorney and JAC. This Registry Contract is not intended to, and shall not be construed to, create the relationship of agent, servant, employee,

partnership, joint venture, or association between JAC and Attorney. Attorney is, and shall at all times be deemed, an independent contractor and shall be wholly responsible for the manner in which Attorney performs the services required by the provisions of this Registry Contract. Attorney exclusively assumes responsibility for the acts of Attorney's employees, agents, subcontractors, and all others acting at the direction of, or on behalf of, Attorney as they relate to the services to be provided under this Registry Contract. Attorney and Attorney's agents and employees shall not be entitled to any rights or privileges of employees of the State of Florida including, but not limited to, compensation insurance, malpractice insurance, and unemployment insurance, as a result of this Registry Contract.

### ***NO PROHIBITION ON PRIVATE PRACTICE***

27. Nothing in this Registry Contract shall preclude Attorney from representing privately retained clients provided that no private case shall be accepted that is likely to cause a conflict of interest with a case appointed to Attorney under this Registry Contract.

### ***PROHIBITED PRACTICES***

28. Attorney shall not obtain due process services for court-appointed Clients from a due process vendor or other business entity of which Attorney or Attorney's parent, spouse, child, or sibling is an officer, partner, director, or proprietor or in which Attorney or Attorney's parent, spouse, child, or sibling, or any combination of them, has a material interest in any form whatsoever. Attorney shall also not obtain due process services for court-appointed Clients from a due process vendor or other business entity with whom Attorney shares any form of financial interest including, but not limited to, joint ownership of property. Attorney shall not share office space with a due process vendor providing due process services to Attorney's court-appointed Clients. Attorney shall not solicit or accept anything of value to Attorney, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, from a due process vendor or other business entity who provides due process services to Attorney's court-appointed Clients. Attorney shall not provide anything of value to a due process vendor, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, to a due process vendor or other business entity who provides due process services to Attorney's court-appointed Clients.

29. If an officer, employee, or agent of JAC solicits anything of value from Attorney, including a gift, loan, reward, promise of future employment, favor, or service, Attorney shall notify JAC immediately. JAC maintains a TIPS FORM on its website, which can be used anonymously, through which Attorney may notify JAC. JAC's TIPS FORM is currently located at:

<https://www.justiceadmin.org/contact/emailjac.aspx?ToName=JAC%20Tips>.

A person who, in good faith, reports wrongful activity meeting the provisions of s. 112.3187, F.S. (Whistle-blower's Act), is protected against retaliation for making such a report. The law also provides for the individual's identity to remain confidential.



Regardless as to whether the provisions of the Whistle-blower's Act are met, it is a violation of JAC employment policy for any employee to retaliate against a person for reporting, in good faith, allegations of wrongdoing, or participating in the investigation of such allegations.

30. In dealing with JAC and its staff, Attorney and Attorney's staff or representatives shall act in a professional and respectful manner. Behaviors that contribute to a hostile, humiliating, or intimidating work environment, including sexual harassment, bullying, and abusive language or behavior, are unacceptable.

### **NO WAIVER/GOVERNING LAW**

31. No waiver by either party of any existing default by the other party shall be deemed to waive any subsequent default. All rights hereunder are cumulative, not alternative, and are in addition to any other rights given by law. The validity, construction, and interpretation of this Registry Contract shall be governed by the laws of the State of Florida and the Florida Constitution.

32. The delay or failure by JAC to exercise or enforce any of its rights under the Registry Contract shall not constitute or be deemed a waiver of JAC's right thereafter to enforce those rights, nor shall any single or partial exercise of any such right preclude any other or further exercise thereof or the exercise of any other right.

33. Any action arising over any dispute over performance or other provisions of this Registry Contract may only be maintained in Florida state court. Venue for all equitable or legal actions arising from or related to this Registry Contract wherein JAC or the State of Florida is a named party shall be in the appropriate state court in Leon County, Florida. The parties waive any right to jury trial.

34. For purpose of the applicable statute of limitations under general law, any cause of action for compensation in relation to attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses for a court-appointed case accrues on the date the case reached final disposition notwithstanding any appeals. For purposes of this paragraph final disposition means:

- a. At the trial court level, when the court has entered a final appealable judgment, unless rendition of judgment is stayed by the filing of a timely motion for rehearing, motion to withdraw plea, motion for a new trial, or other motion that stays rendition for appellate purposes. The filing of a notice of appeal does not stay the time for submission of a billing. If rendition of judgment is stayed by the filing of a timely motion, the case will be deemed to have reached disposition on the date of the resolution of the motion.
- b. At the appellate court level, when the court has issued its mandate or the appellate case has otherwise reached final disposition.

35. Attorney waives the right to seek compensation either directly or indirectly on behalf of due process vendors in relation to attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses once the statute of limitation has expired.

#### ***FORCE MAJEURE***

36. JAC shall not be responsible for delay resulting from its failure to perform if neither the fault nor the negligence of JAC or its employees or agents contributed to the delay and the delay is due directly to acts of God, wars, acts of public enemies, strikes, fires, floods, or other similar cause wholly beyond the JAC's control. In case of any delay JAC believes is excusable, JAC shall notify Attorneys and Due Process Vendors of the delay or potential delay and describe the cause of the delay either (1) within ten (10) days after the cause that creates or will create the delay first arose, if JAC could reasonably foresee that a delay could occur as a result, or (2) if delay is not reasonably foreseeable, within five (5) days after the date JAC first had reason to believe that a delay could result. Such notice shall be posted on JAC's website.

#### ***SEVERABILITY***

37. The provisions of this Registry Contract shall be deemed to be severable. If any provision herein shall be held to be illegal or void, such determination shall not affect the validity or legality of the remaining provisions. If a court deems any provision of the Registry Contract void or unenforceable, that provision shall be enforced only to the extent that it is not in violation of the law. Notwithstanding any such determination, this Registry Contract shall continue in full force and effect unless a particular provision held to be illegal or void, renders the balance of the Registry Contract impossible to perform.

#### ***NO ASSIGNMENT***

38. Attorney shall not delegate or assign this Registry Contract or compensation owed to Attorney under this Registry Contract. Attorney shall not assign or delegate any duties or work to another attorney unless that attorney is also appointed to that case. Attorney shall not bill for services rendered by another attorney and affirmatively waives the right to seek compensation for work performed by any other attorney.

#### ***ELECTRONIC SIGNATURES***

39. As authorized by s. 668.004, F.S., the Registry Contract shall be executed through electronic signature. JAC and Attorney understand and acknowledge that electronic signatures will be used to sign the Registry Contract and shall have the same force and effect as a written signature.

#### ***ENTIRE CONTRACT***

40. This Registry Contract supersedes all prior negotiations, correspondence, conversations, agreements, contracts, or understandings applicable to the matters contained herein, and the parties agree that there are no commitments, agreements,

contracts, or understandings concerning the subject matter of this Registry Contract that are not contained in this document. Accordingly, it is agreed that no deviation from the provisions of this Registry Contract shall be predicated upon any prior representations, agreements, or contracts, whether oral or written.

41. The Registry Contract contains all the provisions agreed upon by the parties, which provisions shall govern all transactions between JAC and Attorney. The Registry Contract may only be modified or amended upon mutual written agreement of JAC and Attorney. No oral agreements or representations shall be valid or binding upon JAC or Attorney.

42. This Registry Contract constitutes a uniform statewide contract promulgated by JAC pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S. This Registry Contract may not be altered, modified, or amended except through a separate contract executed by attorney and an authorized representative of JAC. If any provision of this Registry Contract is altered, modified, amended, or otherwise changed to deviate from the provisions of the uniform statewide contract promulgated by JAC, then this Registry Contract is void *ab initio* in its entirety notwithstanding any execution by an authorized representative of JAC. Alterations, modifications, or amendments include any handwritten or typographical change or deviation of any of the provisions of the uniform statewide contract. Performance by JAC under this Registry Contract shall under no circumstances waive this provision.

### III. COMPENSATION

#### **GENERAL COMPENSATION PROVISIONS**

1. Attorney shall be paid in accordance with the schedule of fees prescribed by the Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act in effect at the time of Attorney's date of appointment. Attorney agrees and acknowledges that the compensation to be paid pursuant to this Registry Contract shall be the sole, exclusive, and full compensation to which Attorney shall be entitled for cases Attorney is appointed to pursuant to this Registry Contract.

2. Attorney and/or Legal Entity shall designate who shall receive payment from JAC under this Registry Contract. Payment by JAC under this Registry Contract may only be made to Attorney or Legal Entity. Attorney and Legal Entity shall hold JAC harmless from any and all liability which might arise from any dispute or litigation as a result of a payment by JAC. This subparagraph does not authorize Legal Entity to assign work on the case to any other attorney other than an attorney who has entered into this Registry Contract.

3. Attorney shall not seek compensation or reimbursement by JAC for fees, costs, or related expenses associated with the defense of a Bar grievance, nor shall Attorney seek a court order for payment or accept payment for such fees, costs, or related expenses.

4. Except for witness fees authorized by law, Attorney shall not seek compensation or reimbursement by JAC for fees, costs, or related expenses associated with being called as a witness in any proceeding related to his or her services under this Registry Contract including, but not limited to, motions for postconviction relief.

### **FINDING OF CONFLICT REQUIRED**

5. Payment for services in a criminal or civil case is contingent on the Office of the Public Defender and the Office of Criminal Conflict and Civil Regional Counsel being authorized to withdraw or to discharge from the case or a court *sua sponte* finding a conflict precluding representation when the respective offices are authorized to provide representation. For off-registry appointments pursuant to s. 27.40(7)(a), F.S., the order of appointment must also include a finding that there were no registry attorneys available for representation for that case or other good cause for the off-registry appointment. If said offices have not withdrawn or discharged or a court has not *sua sponte* found a conflict, Attorney waives all right to seek payment from JAC for attorney fees, costs, or related expenses. Attorney is responsible for verifying that said offices have withdrawn or discharged from the case or a court has *sua sponte* found a conflict before commencing representation. The withdrawal or discharge of said offices from an earlier proceeding shall not create any presumption that said offices continue to have a conflict for later proceedings including, but not limited to, appeals, violation of probation or community control proceedings, motions for postconviction relief, and any other extraordinary remedies for which court-appointed counsel is authorized under Florida law.

### **FULL PERFORMANCE**

6. For the cases compensated on a flat fee basis, if Attorney withdraws or is discharged prior to the full performance of his or her duties through the completion of the case, the court shall presume that the attorney is not entitled to payment of the full flat fee. If the Client retains private counsel, Attorney shall file a motion to withdraw. Attorney shall serve the motion to withdraw on JAC. If privately retained counsel files a notice of appearance or assumes representation of the Client, Attorney is deemed to have withdrawn from the case as of the date of the notice of appearance or assumption of representation if Attorney does not file a motion to withdraw.

7. For any case subject to a flat fee, if Attorney withdraws or is discharged prior to completion of the case, Attorney shall only be entitled to a portion of the flat fee to be determined by the court. The total compensation for Attorney and any and all subsequent attorneys may not exceed the flat fee established by Florida law.

### **OVERPAYMENTS**

8. Overpayments by JAC of attorney fees, costs, or related expenses are subject to full recovery by JAC. The method of recovery is at the discretion of JAC and may include, but not be limited to, offsets against future payments, direct reimbursement of overpayment to JAC by Attorney, or any other remedies available to a creditor by law. In a judicial or other proceeding, JAC's determination of the existence and amount of overpayment is presumed correct and Attorney must rebut any JAC determination through clear and convincing evidence.

## **LEGISLATIVE APPROPRIATIONS**

9. The State of Florida and JAC's performance and obligation to pay under this Registry Contract are contingent upon an annual appropriation by the Legislature. JAC's performance under this Registry Contract is also contingent upon compliance by Attorney with JAC Policies and Procedures for Court-Appointed Counsel (JAC Policies and Procedures).

### **FLAT FEE FOR CAPITAL (DEATH) CASES**

10. The flat fee for capital (death) cases including capital appeals only applies to any offense for which the potential sentence is or remains death, the State has filed a notice containing a list of the aggravating factors the State intends to prove, and the State has not waived seeking the death penalty at the time the Attorney is appointed to represent the Defendant. In order to receive the flat fee for a capital case, Attorney must be eligible and qualified to accept appointment to death penalty cases. If a capital case appointment does not meet these criteria, then the case is considered a capital (non-death) appointment or felony appeal for billing purposes. If Attorney is not on the registry for death penalty cases, the appointment shall be deemed as a capital (non-death) appointment unless the order of appointment specifically indicates that Attorney is qualified to accept appointment to death penalty cases.

### **FLAT FEE FOR RACKETEER INFLUENCED AND CORRUPT ORGANIZATION (RICO) ACT CASES**

11. The flat fees in the General Appropriations Act for RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organization Act) cases apply when the Defendant is charged with an offense under the Florida RICO Act (Ch. 895, F.S.). The applicable flat fee will be based on the highest offense for which the Defendant is charged in the information or indictment even if that charge is not a RICO offense.

### **COMPENSATION IN EXCESS OF THE FLAT FEE (EXTRAORDINARY COMPENSATION)**

12. The procedures set forth in s. 27.5304(12), F.S., constitute the sole method by which Attorney can seek compensation in excess of the flat fee (extraordinary compensation) authorized by the Florida Statutes and the General Appropriations Act or the statutory caps.

13. If Attorney intends to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee set forth in the General Appropriations Act, Attorney agrees not to seek compensation at an hourly rate in excess of the hourly rates set forth in s. 27.5304(12), F.S. For purposes of hourly billing, a capital (death) case is any offense for which the potential sentence is death, the State has filed a notice containing a list of the aggravating factors the State intends to prove, the State has not waived seeking the death penalty at the time the Attorney is appointed

to represent the Defendant, and the Attorney is eligible and qualified to accept appointment to death penalty cases. If Attorney is not on the registry for death penalty cases, the appointment shall be deemed as a capital (non-death) appointment unless the order of appointment specifically indicates that Attorney is qualified to accept appointment to death penalty cases.

### **DEPENDENCY/TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS CASES**

14. In Chs. 39 and 63, F.S., cases, Attorney shall be compensated only when appointed to represent an indigent parent as court-appointed counsel. Attorney shall not be compensated if Attorney is appointed to represent a legal guardian or a step-parent or is appointed as attorney-ad-litem for a parent. Attorney also shall not be compensated if Attorney is appointed to represent a child or children in Ch. 39, F.S., cases except as authorized under s. 39.01305, F.S.

15. Payment for appointment to represent a dependent child with certain special needs is contingent upon the court finding in the order of appointment that the child meets one or more of the criteria specified in s. 39.01305(3), F.S., and the court further finding that an attorney willing to provide services without additional compensation was not available as specified in s. 39.01305(4), F.S. An attorney may submit a billing for the annual flat fee following the first judicial review held after the date of appointment and following the first judicial review held in the second and subsequent years of representation. After an attorney is appointed, the appointment continues in effect until the attorney is allowed to withdraw or is discharged by the court or until the case is dismissed or protective supervision is terminated. If Attorney arranges for supplemental or separate counsel to handle appellate proceedings, this arrangement shall be implemented through an order of appointment meeting the requirements of this subsection. Except when consent of a natural guardian or other appropriate person is obtained as authorized by s. 744.301, F.S., or other provision of Florida law, Attorney shall not initiate a civil or administrative action on behalf of the child without authorization of the court.

16. If Attorney is appointed to represent a parent or child in dependency or termination of parental rights proceedings potentially eligible for federal reimbursement to JAC pursuant to Title IV-E of the Social Security Act, Attorney shall provide any or all information necessary for JAC to seek Title IV-E reimbursement including, but not limited to, the name of the parent or child represented, the name and date of birth of each child who is a subject of the proceedings, and whether each child was in foster care during the pendency of the representation.

#### **IV. DUE PROCESS COSTS**

### **GENERAL PROVISIONS**

1. Attorney acknowledges and agrees that due process costs are the sole responsibility of Attorney. JAC is not privy to any agreement or contract between Attorney and due process vendors and in no way accepts responsibility or liability for quality of

service, terms and conditions, or any other aspects of any agreement or contract between Attorney and due process vendors.

2. Pursuant to ss. 27.425 and 27.5305, F.S., the rates for due process services are established annually in the General Appropriations Act. When there are no established rates for a due process service in a circuit, JAC relies on the rates recommended by the Indigent Services Advisory Board, as set forth in JAC Policies and Procedures, for guidance. For purposes of this Registry Contract, the phrase "Established Rates" is defined as the rates established annually in the General Appropriations Act. The Established Rates are subject to change and may be amended from time to time during the course of this Registry Contract. It is Attorney's responsibility to remain informed of changes and amendments to the Established Rates. The Established Rates shall be posted on JAC's website at

[https://www.justiceadmin.org/court\\_app\\_counsel/formsandrates.aspx#rates](https://www.justiceadmin.org/court_app_counsel/formsandrates.aspx#rates).

3. JAC, as a courtesy to Attorney and at the discretion of JAC, may make payment directly to due process vendors that have executed a due process contract with JAC. Payment by JAC directly or by reimbursement to Attorney for due process services shall only be made if the billing procedures and rates sought comply with Florida Statutes, applicable court Administrative Orders, and JAC Policies and Procedures. If Attorney engages a due process vendor at rates in excess of the Established Rates, or in excess of higher rates specifically authorized by written court order, Attorney shall be responsible for the difference between the applicable Established Rates or rates authorized by court order, and the rates billed by the vendor. JAC is entitled to notice and an opportunity to be heard prior to any court authorizing rates higher than the Established Rates or where there are no Established Rates.

4. Attorney agrees that if a due process vendor or other entity providing services to the defense does not have a contract with JAC or is unwilling to bill JAC directly, then Attorney shall pay the vendor or other entity and seek reimbursement from JAC as provided herein. Although a contract is generally not required for other state entities, a state entity must be willing to bill JAC directly in order for JAC to make direct payment to the state entity.

5. Attorney shall approve or reject any billing for due process services submitted by a due process vendor through *MyJAC* as soon as feasible, but generally no more than ten (10) business days after notification that a due process vendor has submitted a billing. Attorney agrees to supply JAC with all necessary documentation required under this Registry Contract and JAC Policies and Procedures for JAC to process for payment any direct billings from due process vendors. Attorney agrees to respond to any Audit Deficiency related to a due process vendor billing within thirty (30) days of receipt of an Audit Deficiency. The failure to provide necessary documentation required for payment of due process vendors may result in JAC withdrawing the privilege of JAC making direct payment to due process vendors. If Attorney or a due process vendor fails to respond to an Audit Deficiency or fails to provide necessary documentation within a reasonable

period of time, then JAC may take appropriate action including, but not limited to, rejecting the billing for payment, issuing a Letter of Objection to payment, or paying the amount authorized pursuant to the Established Rates or applicable court order.

6. JAC shall only pay for actual services provided by due process vendors that are reasonably necessary for the defense of the case. JAC has no responsibility for and will not pay for any cancellation fees or loss of business charges.

7. Except when prior court approval is not required pursuant to the express provisions of the Florida Statutes, the General Appropriations Act, or JAC Policies and Procedures, a motion for due process costs must be served upon JAC prior to a court entering an order authorizing or otherwise approving due process costs. Attorney agrees and acknowledges that the existence of an Administrative Order or local rules authorizing costs without prior court approval does not relieve Attorney from filing a motion seeking prior approval or authorization for due process costs. JAC is entitled to at least ten (10) business days' notice of any hearing set on a motion for due process costs unless JAC affirmatively consents to a lesser amount of notice. JAC's failure to respond to a motion for due process costs shall not be deemed a waiver of JAC's right to be heard regarding the authorization for due process costs. Attorney shall not seek to obtain a court order prior to obtaining a response from JAC. If Attorney obtains an order in violation of this subparagraph, Attorney agrees not to contest any motion to vacate filed by JAC.

8. If Attorney intends to procure due process services at rates higher than the Established Rates, Attorney must file a written motion setting forth the basis for the higher rate with service upon JAC. Attorney has the burden to establish that the particular due process service is necessary to the defense of the case, and that Attorney made a diligent effort to find the service within the Established Rates. A prior authorization for a higher rate for the same or similar services in an unrelated proceeding shall not relieve Attorney from diligent efforts in the case at issue. In order to obtain reimbursement, the order must contain a finding that the due process service is necessary to the defense of the case, and that Attorney made a diligent effort to find the service within the Established Rates. Diligent effort includes, but is not limited to, evidence that Attorney sought the services of at least three (3) due process vendors willing to work on the case but none were willing to work within the Established Rates. Absent an order expressly authorizing a rate in excess of the Established Rates, JAC will only pay or reimburse for due process services at the Established Rates. If Attorney procures services at a higher rate, Attorney is solely responsible for paying the difference.

9. JAC shall have standing to contest the authorization for any due process costs and the amount of said due process costs. Attorney shall have the burden to establish that the due process costs are reasonable and necessary to the defense of the case.

10. Any order authorizing the procurement of due process services must list the service(s) to be provided, the compensation rates for the due process vendors where the rates sought exceed the Established Rates, and a maximum amount authorized for each service. A maximum amount authorized is not necessary for orders authorizing



transcripts. Any order not containing this information is not sufficient for payment purposes.

11. A motion seeking authorization or additional funds for a private investigator, interpreter, mitigation specialist, or an expert shall set forth the particularized need for the requested services based on the circumstances of the case. Attorney is responsible for tracking the amounts incurred by a private investigator, interpreter, mitigation specialist, or an expert and filing an appropriate motion for additional funds before the exhaustion of the prior order(s) authorizing due process services.

12. Pursuant to s. 28.345, F.S., Attorney is exempt from all court-related fees and charges assessed by the clerks of the circuit courts and the clerks of court shall provide without charge to Attorney as private court-appointed counsel access to and a copy of a public record. As delineated in s. 57.081 F.S., an indigent person shall receive the services of the courts, sheriffs, and clerks, with respect to pending proceedings, despite his or her present inability to pay for these services including filing fees; service of process; certified copies of orders or final judgments; a single photocopy of any court pleading, record, or instrument filed with the clerk; examining fees; mediation services and fees; subpoena fees and services; service charges for collecting and disbursing funds; and any other cost or service arising out of pending litigation. Attorney is responsible for ensuring compliance with the provisions of ss. 28.345 and 57.081, F.S., including, but not limited to, (1) providing necessary documentation to the clerk of court or sheriff and (2) filing appropriate motions with the trial court to obtain such services pursuant to the exemption or without prepayment. JAC shall not reimburse Attorney, either directly or indirectly through a due process vendor, for charges paid to the court, the sheriff, or the clerk of court, in relation to services for which Attorney was statutorily exempt pursuant to s. 28.345, F.S., or the indigent client was entitled to receive without prepayment pursuant to s. 57.081, F.S.

13. Attorney shall reimburse JAC for any costs such as an interest charge, loss of prompt payment discount, or other costs or expenses to JAC due to delay in payment of a due process billing attributable to Attorney's error or omission. Attorney shall attempt to resolve any dispute between Attorney and any due process vendors without JAC intervention.

14. JAC maintains a searchable database on its website listing due process vendors with current JAC Due Process Contracts. JAC does not verify the professional qualifications of these due process vendors. It is the sole responsibility of the Attorney hiring due process vendors to verify their professional qualifications. The inclusion of a due process vendor on JAC's searchable database listing due process vendors in no way suggests or implies JAC's approval or endorsement of that due process vendor.

15. In criminal cases, JAC may pay for clothing necessary to satisfy due process concerns at a jury trial. Before seeking authorization to obtain clothing for use by a criminal defendant at jury trial, Attorney will need to contact (1) the Defendant and his or her family and (2) the Office of the Public Defender or other applicable local entity to

determine if court-appropriate clothing is available. If Attorney is unable to obtain clothing through these sources, Attorney may file a motion seeking authorization to obtain clothing for use by the Defendant. The purchase of court-appropriate clothing shall be through the most economical means available such as purchase from discount retailers or second-hand retailers. Upon conclusion of the case, any clothing purchased for use by the Defendant should be turned over to the Office of the Public Defender or other applicable local entity for potential use by other defendants.

### **CERTIFICATION OF SERVICES**

16. Signing the JAC Invoice for a due process vendor is not a ministerial act. By signing the JAC Invoice, Attorney is certifying that the services provided by the due process vendor were satisfactorily performed and were necessary. Attorney is solely responsible for verifying the services listed on the JAC Invoice/ are an accurate representation of the due process services received by Attorney. If Attorney knew or should have known that the information contained on a JAC Invoice was inaccurate at the time the Attorney executed the JAC Invoice and this results in an overpayment to the due process vendor, Attorney is jointly liable with the due process vendor for any recoupment of the overpayment by JAC as provided herein.

### **COURT REPORTER SERVICES**

17. JAC will not pay for any transcript that is not authorized by court order. The court order must be attached to the billing for said transcripts. Attorney must provide the court reporter with a copy of the order of appointment and the order authorizing the transcript. Absent exigent circumstances, Attorney shall not seek approval for transcription of a deposition or hearing before the deposition or hearing has occurred. In determining the number of pages to be billed, JAC will pay for a title page; index, appearance and/or contents page(s); the transcription of the testimony of the proceeding or deposition; one errata sheet for a deponent or witness; and necessary court reporter certification page(s) at the conclusion of the transcript. JAC will not pay for any pages containing word indexes, summaries, or similar information unless specifically required by court rule. All transcripts must comply with the minimum formatting requirements set forth in Florida Rules of General Practice and Judicial Administration 2.535(f). The court reporter shall provide at least one (1) original hard copy of any transcript in addition to any electronic copies.

18. JAC may pay for the cost of preparing a transcript of a deposition only if Attorney secures an order from the court finding that preparation of the transcript is necessary, in which case JAC may pay for one (1) original and one (1) copy only. The order should reflect the name of each witness and date of the deposition to be transcribed.

19. JAC may pay for the cost of one (1) original transcript of any deposition, hearing, or other proceeding. Any other payment for a transcript of that same deposition, hearing, or other proceeding, regardless of whether the transcript is an additional original transcript or a copy, shall be at the rate paid for a copy of a transcript. This subparagraph applies regardless of which state agency or other person or entity pays for the first original

transcript. JAC pays rates for regular delivery (ten business days) unless Attorney has filed a motion justifying expedited rates and the court has entered an order authorizing expedited rates.

### ***INVESTIGATOR SERVICES***

20. Attorney acknowledges that any private investigator retained to provide services in Florida must be licensed pursuant to Florida law. JAC is not authorized to pay for any private investigator services provided in Florida by a person not properly licensed pursuant to Florida law.

21. Attorney agrees that the role of a private investigator is limited to providing investigative services such as locating and interviewing witnesses; locating and securing documents and other evidence relevant to the case; performing background checks; and researching any other factual issues relevant to the case such as credibility and character of witnesses. Where private service of process is authorized, an investigator can also serve subpoenas on ordinary, non-law enforcement witnesses; however, the investigator can only bill the flat rates applicable for private service of process regardless of the amount of time spent serving the subpoena. Attorney agrees investigator is not a substitute for a paralegal or secretary and cannot be used to perform administrative tasks including, but not limited to, retrieving discovery from the state attorney; copying documents from a court file; delivering materials to the Defendant; or any other tasks of a paralegal or secretarial nature. If multiple investigators are employed on a case, only one investigator should be assigned or compensated for any particular task. Also, JAC shall only compensate a single investigator for attendance at meetings with Attorney or other members of the defense team regardless of the number of investigators that attend the meeting. JAC will not pay for any time related to training investigators or investigator interns. If an investigator accepts cases for a circuit outside the location of the investigator's office, the investigator cannot seek reimbursement for travel time, mileage, lodging, or any other travel expenses to travel to the circuit of the case absent specific authorization from the court. A private investigator providing services on a case shall not provide expert or mitigation specialist services on the same case.

### ***PROCESS SERVERS***

22. Service of process upon witnesses shall be through the sheriff unless the sheriff is unable or unavailable to provide service of process. Under s. 57.081, F.S., the sheriff is available to provide service of process without prepayment in cases involving indigent persons. Attorney specifically agrees that the sheriff shall be used to serve in-county law enforcement absent exceptional circumstances. In order to use a private process server, Attorney must serve a motion setting forth the exceptional circumstances requiring use of a private process server upon JAC.

### ***INTERPRETERS***

23. For interpreting services, JAC is responsible for services provided outside the court such as depositions and witness interviews. JAC is not responsible for payment of

interpreting services provided in court or at other judicial proceedings such as grand jury proceedings and proceedings before a general magistrate.

### ***OUT-OF-STATE DUE PROCESS VENDORS***

24. Attorney shall not seek authorization from the court for out-of-state experts or mitigation specialists, absent a showing that there are no such due process vendors with appropriate skills or expertise available, first, in the county in which the case was filed and, second, in any other county in the State of Florida. If Attorney obtains an out-of-state due process vendor without making such a showing, Attorney agrees not to request reimbursement for any travel expenses including compensation for travel time on behalf of the due process vendor. An order authorizing the employment must be in writing and contain specific findings regarding the unavailability of a qualified in-state expert or mitigation specialist. Attorney shall submit a copy of the order to JAC.

### ***RETAINERS***

25. JAC shall not prepay or provide a retainer for due process services. Attorney shall not seek to have JAC prepay or provide a retainer for due process services. If a due process vendor requires prepayment or a retainer, Attorney shall pay the amount and seek reimbursement only after the due process vendor has completed the services for which the prepayment or retainer was paid. Attorney shall only be reimbursed the amount necessary to compensate the due process vendor at the appropriate hourly rate irrespective of the amount of the retainer.

### ***CAPITAL CASE BUDGET***

26. For capital cases in which the State has not waived the death penalty, as soon as practicable after appointment, defense counsel shall set a hearing for the trial court to determine a reasonable budget for due process costs with notice to JAC of said hearing. This budget shall be based on the circumstances of the case, the amount needed to provide the Defendant with the basic tools of defense as mandated by due process concerns under the state and federal constitutions, the amount appropriated for due process costs in the General Appropriations Act, and the amount the Office of the Public Defender for the applicable circuit expends for similar capital cases. Attorney shall make diligent efforts to remain within this budget. Prior to authorizing expenditures in excess of this budget, Attorney will set the matter for hearing with notice to JAC. The provisions of this subparagraph are in addition to the other requirements for due process services set forth in this Registry Contract.

### ***PUBLIC RECORDS***

27. To the extent that Attorney's records constitute public records under Florida law, Attorney must comply with the requirements of Ch. 119, F.S., and other provisions of Florida law relating to public records. Attorney is solely liable for any fees or costs assessed against Attorney if Attorney fails to comply with a request for public records

pursuant to Florida law. In assessing whether records possessed by Attorney constitute public records, Attorney should be familiar with Kight v. Dugger, 574 So. 2d 1066 (Fla. 1990), which concluded that files held in furtherance of representation of an indigent client are not public records.

V. BILLING REQUIREMENTS FOR REIMBURSEMENT OF ATTORNEY FEES, COSTS, AND RELATED EXPENSES

**TIMELY SUBMISSION**

1. Attorney shall submit to JAC all billings for attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses within ninety (90) days after final disposition of the case. The filing of an appeal does not stay the time for submitting a billing relating to representation at the lower court level even if Attorney is appointed to represent the Client on appeal. For any billing submitted to JAC more than ninety (90) days after final disposition, in accordance with s. 27.5304, F.S., the allowable attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses shall be reduced by fifteen (15) percent. The reduction is a contractual penalty for failing to submit a billing in a timely fashion as required by s. 27.5304, F.S. A billing shall not be deemed submitted to JAC until all of the documents required under JAC Policies and Procedures have been received by JAC.

2. Where any billing is submitted to JAC more than one (1) year after final disposition, in accordance with s. 27.5304, F.S., the allowable attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses shall be reduced by fifty (50) percent. The reduction is a contractual penalty for failing to submit a billing in a timely fashion as required by s. 27.5304, F.S. A billing shall not be deemed submitted to JAC until all of the documents required under JAC Policies and Procedures have been received by JAC.

3. Where any billing is submitted to JAC more than two (2) years after final disposition, in accordance with s. 27.5304, F.S., the allowable attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses shall be reduced by seventy-five (75) percent. The reduction is a contractual penalty for failing to submit a billing in a timely fashion as required by s. 27.5304, F.S. A billing shall not be deemed submitted to JAC until all of the documents required under JAC Policies and Procedures have been received by JAC.

4. For purposes of this Registry Contract, the term “disposition” means:

- a. At the trial court level, when the court has entered a final appealable judgment, unless rendition of judgment is stayed by the filing of a timely motion for rehearing, motion to withdraw plea, motion for a new trial, or other motion that stays rendition for appellate purposes. The filing of a notice of appeal does not stay the time for submission of a billing. If rendition of judgment is stayed by the filing of a timely motion, the case will be deemed to have reached disposition on the date of the resolution of the motion.

- b. At the appellate court level, when the court has issued its mandate or the appellate case has otherwise reached final disposition.

### **BILLING SUBMISSION**

5. Attorney shall comply with all the requirements of this Registry Contract, Florida Statutes, JAC Policies and Procedures, Administrative Orders, and applicable court orders. Attorney shall submit requests for compensation on applicable JAC forms to obtain compensation for services rendered pursuant to this Registry Contract. JAC Policies and Procedures are incorporated into this Registry Contract by reference and can be found on JAC's website at

[https://www.justiceadmin.org/court\\_app\\_counsel/index.aspx](https://www.justiceadmin.org/court_app_counsel/index.aspx).

Attorney agrees to be bound by JAC Policies and Procedures in effect on the effective date of this Registry Contract and as they may be amended from time to time during the course of this Registry Contract. It is Attorney's sole responsibility to remain informed of changes and updates to JAC Policies and Procedures.

6. Attorney shall submit any billing for payment of attorney fees and/or reimbursement of due process costs and related expenses through the Online Billing Submission system located on MyJAC. Attorney shall use a unique invoice number for each billing submitted to JAC.

7. If Legal Entity is appointed to a case and Attorney is assigned to the case, billings presented by Legal Entity shall be certified by Attorney. The Attorney assigned to the case shall execute a contract with JAC. Attorney shall bill for all cases under one Tax ID number. Attorney shall execute a new contract if Attorney changes Tax ID number or moves to a new firm. Any sharing of compensation with prior firms or future firms is the responsibility of Attorney and Legal Entity.

8. Attorney billings for fees, costs, or related expenses shall be supported by documentation that includes, but is not limited to, the Order of Appointment, the charging document or other initial pleading, and the disposition documents. For appeals, Attorney shall supply a paper or electronic copy of the briefs filed by Attorney in the case.

9. Attorney shall be familiar with the statutory and contractual requirements for submission of billings to JAC. It is Attorney's responsibility to verify that all necessary documentation required for payment of a billing is submitted to JAC prior to or with the initial submission of a billing. Attorney is also responsible for verifying that the case has reached a billable stage and submitting the billing in an amount consistent with contractual and statutory requirements. Repeated failures to submit billings that comport with statutory and contractual requirements constitute good cause for JAC to terminate this Registry Contract. Notwithstanding s. 215.422, F.S., JAC retains the authority to delay processing any billing for record inspection, Audit Deficiency, Letter of Objection, or otherwise, to comply with the requirements of s. 43.16(6), F.S. If JAC determines that

further inspection or other action is necessary before JAC approves the billing for payment, the prompt payment requirements set forth in s. 215.422, F.S., will not commence until JAC completes its inspection or other action.

10. If Attorney provides services related to more than one case, Attorney shall apportion the time spent among all the cases to which the services related regardless of how the cases are billed. If Attorney is in court on multiple cases, the time spent shall be apportioned among all the cases regardless of the manner in which the cases are billed. Attorney shall not bill all the time to a single case on an hourly basis and then seek flat fee compensation on the other cases.

11. If Attorney has been appointed to more than one case for the same defendant within a thirty (30) day period or more than one case for the same defendant reaches final disposition within a thirty (30) day period, Attorney shall bill simultaneously for all cases appointed to that defendant. For purposes of the contractual penalties for untimely billing, the date of final disposition shall be the date the last case reaches final disposition. Attorney shall not seek to bill one or more of the cases on a flat fee basis while seeking unusual and extraordinary compensation as to other cases appointed to the same defendant. Attorney must either bill all cases on a flat fee basis or submit a single billing for all cases seeking unusual and extraordinary compensation. If Attorney bills one or more of the cases on a flat fee basis and subsequently bills another case on an hourly basis, Attorney shall offset the prior flat fee payments from the amount sought in the hourly billing.

12. For cases billed on a flat fee basis, Attorney authorizes JAC to correct the billing to comport with the flat fee established in the General Appropriations Act. Attorney agrees to hold JAC harmless for any correction to adjust the billing to comport with the flat fee established under the General Appropriations Act. Any billing seeking extraordinary compensation must be submitted using the proper forms for an extraordinary billing as set forth in JAC Policies and Procedures.

13. If Attorney has accrued more than \$25,000 in unbilled attorney fees on a case, Attorney should submit an interim billing to JAC, unless Attorney reasonably anticipates the case will reach final disposition within six (6) months.

14. In capital or other cases where court-appointed lead counsel and a co-counsel have been appointed, JAC will review all attorney billings for fees, costs, or related expenses simultaneously. It shall be the lead and co-counsel's responsibility to coordinate the submission of their bills. Attorney agrees not to set a motion for hearing until JAC has received and reviewed billings from both attorneys.

### **AUDIT DEFICIENCIES/LETTERS OF OBJECTION**

15. Attorney shall not seek a court order for payment nor accept payment for a billing before JAC has completed review of a properly presented billing. An Audit Deficiency is an instrument used to convey that a billing is deficient and does not serve as JAC's Letter

of Objection or No Objection to any billing submitted by Attorney. Attorney shall not file a motion for compensation based upon an Audit Deficiency. Any response to an Audit Deficiency shall be submitted via *MyJAC*. Attorney shall not file a motion for attorney fees, costs, and/or related expenses until Attorney receives a Letter of Objection or No Objection from JAC. A copy of the Letter of Objection or No Objection must be attached to the motion. Attorney shall also provide the court with any amended letters, revised documents, or other pertinent correspondence prior to any hearing in the matter. If Attorney obtains an order in violation of this subparagraph, Attorney agrees not to contest any motion to vacate filed by JAC. Attorney will not seek to enforce or otherwise compel performance by JAC of an order obtained in violation of this subparagraph.

16. Any Letter of Objection or No Objection, or Audit Deficiency shall expire one (1) year from the date of issuance. If Attorney or due process vendor fails to act on the letter or notice within one (1) year of issuance, the billing shall be deemed abandoned without further notice.

#### ***NON-BILLABLE ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES***

17. When seeking compensation on an hourly basis, administrative activities do not constitute services for which Attorney may seek compensation. For purposes of this Registry Contract, administrative activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- a. Services performed by support staff, paralegals, law clerks, and secretaries.
- b. Time related to or in furtherance of billing or time related to defending a disputed bill.
- c. Time spent reviewing billings of due process vendors.
- d. Time spent preparing motions for attorney fees and costs, due process costs, and/or related expenses, and time spent in hearing on said motions.
- e. Time spent on activities not reasonably related to the merits of the underlying case including time spent preparing and reviewing routine pleadings and documents (such as notices of hearings and depositions, notices of unavailability, subpoenas, and returns of service); calendaring hearings and setting depositions; and providing instructions to staff.
- f. Time spent on office or administrative functions including secretarial and administrative work performed by any person, including Attorney.
- g. Time spent defending against a Bar complaint, 3.850 motion, or other grievance filed by the Client.
- h. Time spent on any other activity not reasonably related to the defense of the case.



- i. Time spent on correspondence with JAC and conversations with JAC personnel.

**Attorney agrees not to seek hourly compensation for any such services including, but not limited to, the services listed above.**

### **HEARINGS ON MOTIONS**

18. Attorney shall provide JAC with a minimum of ten (10) business days' notice of any hearing on a motion relating to attorney fees, costs or related expenses unless JAC affirmatively consents to a lesser amount of notice. Pursuant to s. 27.5304, F.S., motions seeking attorney compensation in excess of the flat fee (extraordinary compensation) require a minimum notice of twenty (20) business days before the date of the hearing unless JAC affirmatively consents to a lesser amount of notice. Attorney shall provide JAC with copies of all attachments to said pleadings, motions, or other legal documents. If Attorney intends to set a hearing with less than the requisite notice, the hearing time must be cleared with JAC prior to setting the hearing by sending a request to in the manner directed by the JAC Policies and Procedures. The subject line of the request should clearly indicate the request to set a hearing with short notice so that JAC can respond expeditiously to the request. Attorney shall include in the notice of hearing the manner in which JAC will participate in the hearing including calling instructions, Zoom or Microsoft Teams information, or other pertinent information relevant to JAC's appearance in the matter. Attorney shall promptly notify JAC of any changes including cancellations or change in time or date of the hearing.

19. Attorney agrees to not object or otherwise contest any request by JAC to appear remotely by telephonic or electronic means at any hearing or other judicial proceeding related to the attorney's appointment, attorney fees, due process costs, or related expenses including any evidentiary hearing on a motion seeking fees or costs in excess of the flat fee or statutory limitations. If JAC is not already present at a hearing at which JAC has requested to participate, Attorney shall notify the Court that JAC has requested to participate before commencement of the hearing. Attorney shall make diligent efforts to ensure JAC participation including, but not limited to, contacting JAC via phone and verifying that JAC is not attempting to participate through telephonic or virtual communications equipment.

20. Even after Attorney files a motion, Attorney shall provide the court with any subsequent correspondence with JAC including amended Letters of Objection, revised documents, or any other pertinent correspondence prior to any hearing in the matter. Attorney shall also provide any and all documentation that Attorney intends to provide to the court in support of a motion for compensation in excess of the flat fee or statutory maximums. Attorney shall also provide a written report from any expert that Attorney intends to use as a witness at the evidentiary hearing on said motion. Failure to provide JAC with said documentation or written report shall be deemed a waiver of the right to present said documentation or expert at the evidentiary hearing.

## **EXTRAORDINARY BILLING REQUIREMENTS**

21. If Attorney seeks compensation in excess of the flat fee or statutory limitations, Attorney shall identify the factual and legal issues, in a separate explanatory statement submitted with the JAC Invoice, which establish the extraordinary and unusual efforts provided by Attorney and make the case eligible for compensation above the flat fee pursuant s. 27.5304(12), F.S. This statement shall include, but not be limited to, the number of witnesses, the number of days of trial, and the complexity of the factual and legal issues presented to the court. This statement is subject to the Attorney Certification included on the JAC Invoice and executed by Attorney.

22. If Attorney seeks to bill hourly under s. 27.5304(12), F.S., Attorney shall propose an hourly rate not to exceed the rate authorized pursuant to Florida law. Said hourly rate shall be only that amount necessary to ensure that the total fees paid are not confiscatory. The compensation calculated by using the hourly rate shall be only that amount necessary to ensure that the total fees paid are not confiscatory.

23. If Attorney seeks compensation in excess of the flat fee pursuant to s. 27.5304(12), F.S., Attorney shall provide an hourly statement that comports with the requirements set forth in this Registry Contract and JAC Policies and Procedures. Attorney shall only bill in hours and tenths of hours, and services shall be listed in chronological order beginning with the date of Attorney's appointment to the case. The hourly statement shall include a single entry for in-court time and a single entry for out-of-court time for each date billed. Attorney shall bill the actual amount of time spent on each date billed rounded to the nearest tenth of an hour. When Attorney includes multiple services in a single entry, the amount of time attributable to each service shall be indicated in the description of the services. Attorney shall provide detailed description for each service or activity listed on the billing, including, but not limited to, the date of service, the increment of time associated with the service or activity, the identification of documents and materials, the number of pages, and the names of deponents and witnesses interviewed, as applicable. If the reported activity involves more than one assigned case, Attorney's time shall be divided, as appropriate, among the cases even if one or more of said cases is subject to a flat fee. In no event may Attorney's time exceed the total actual clock time required for the reported activity. Attorney shall not bill for services in a single entry across multiple dates. Attorney shall provide a copy of the court's progress docket. Attorney shall not bill for more than ten (10) hours on a single date or more than fifty (50) hours in a calendar week without providing an explanation justifying those hours. The explanation must include the total number of hours billed or to be billed across all cases and an explanation of the particularized need to work these additional hours. Attorney is solely responsible for tracking the number of hours worked across all cases billed through JAC.

24. All cases for the same Client appointed within a thirty (30) day period or reaching final disposition within a thirty (30) day period shall be considered jointly. Attorney shall not seek to bill one or more of the cases on a flat fee basis while seeking unusual and extraordinary compensation as to other cases appointed to the same Client. Attorney

must either bill all cases on a flat fee basis or submit a single billing for all cases seeking unusual and extraordinary compensation.

25. For dependency, termination of parental rights, and other civil cases, Attorney agrees not to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee set forth in the General Appropriations Act unless the number of hours worked on the case or cases appointed to the same Client would allow for payment of at least double the total flat fee at the hourly rate of \$75 per hour. Attorney affirmatively waives the right to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee under the General Appropriation Act for any case or cases appointed to the same Client unless the amount payable on an hourly basis at a rate of \$75 per hour is at least double the flat fee under the General Appropriations Act.

26. Any requirements for extraordinary billings set forth herein or in statute are minimum thresholds in order to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee established in the General Appropriations Act. Attorney still has the burden to demonstrate to the court through competent substantial evidence that the case involved unusual and extraordinary effort. The meeting of a minimum threshold as set forth herein or in statute does not necessarily constitute competent substantial evidence of an extraordinary and unusual effort.

27. A motion for an order approving payment of attorney fees in excess of the limits prescribed in s. 27.5304, F.S., and the General Appropriations Act must include a copy of the billing; the explanatory statement establishing the extraordinary and unusual efforts provided by Attorney; all other necessary documentation that was supplied to JAC; and JAC's letter stating its objection(s). Attorney shall make a good faith effort to resolve any objections or concerns raised by JAC either prior to filing a motion or in the motion. Attorney acknowledges that JAC's objections shall be presumed correct by the court per s. 27.5304(12)(b)2., F.S., and that the failure to respond in good faith to JAC's objections or concerns prior to the hearing constitutes acceptance of those objections or concerns.

28. When billing for in-court time, Attorney shall only bill for time providing services related to the merits of the case, such as time spent in hearing before the court, reviewing case-related documents, or Client or witness interviews. Attorney may also bill an appropriate amount for wait time not to exceed thirty (30) minutes (0.5 hours). If Attorney anticipates that the hearing will potentially involve a substantial amount of wait time exceeding thirty (30) minutes (0.5 hours), Attorney is responsible for bringing work on the case or another case so that the time can be used in a productive manner. For services rendered on or after July 1, 2018, Attorney shall provide a detailed explanation for any request in excess of one (1) hour for routine hearings including, but not limited to, calendar calls, status conferences, pretrial conferences, and judicial reviews in Ch. 39, F.S., cases. For services rendered on or after July 1, 2018, Attorney waives the right to seek any compensation in excess of one (1) hour if Attorney fails to provide a detailed explanation for routine hearings in the billing submitted to JAC.

## VI. RECORD RETENTION/INSPECTION

1. Attorney shall keep contemporaneous detailed records to enable JAC to verify all costs, expenses, and Attorney's time expended representing all Clients in cases appointed under this Registry Contract. The records shall include supporting documentation necessary to adequately evaluate and substantiate payments made under this Registry Contract. JAC Policies and Procedures set forth the general requirements for supporting documentation. Attorney shall also maintain appropriate documentation, including contemporaneous and detailed hourly accounting of time spent representing the Client. Pursuant to s. 27.40(7)(b), F.S., if Attorney fails to maintain such contemporaneous and detailed hourly records, Attorney waives the right to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304, F.S., and the General Appropriations Act.
2. These records and documents are subject to review by JAC, subject to the attorney-client privilege and work-product privilege. Attorney may redact information from the records and documents only to the extent necessary to comply with the privilege.
3. Attorney shall maintain the records and documents in a manner that enables Attorney to redact information subject to a privilege in order to facilitate and not impede JAC's review of the records and documents.
4. Upon JAC's issuance of a notice of inspection of records and documents as to one or more particular case(s), Attorney shall deliver to JAC, or a designated agent, any and all contemporaneous billing records related to the case(s) within a reasonable period of time. This time period shall not exceed thirty (30) days unless an extension is granted by JAC in writing. Attorney's failure to provide the contemporaneous billing records within a reasonable period of time shall be deemed a refusal to allow JAC to inspect the contemporaneous billing records.
5. Attorney agrees to retain and make available for inspection and audit, all records and documents relating to services under this Registry Contract for a period of five (5) years from the date of final disposition of the case, withdrawal or discharge from the case, date of final payment on the case, or until all federal or state audits that may relate to each payment are complete, whichever is later, unless ordered sealed by the court. This requirement applies to JAC and other state entities with authority to audit or review Attorney's records including, but not limited to, the Auditor General and the Office of Fiscal Integrity.
6. If Attorney fails, refuses, or declines to permit JAC to review documentation for a case as provided in this Registry Contract, Attorney waives the right to seek, and JAC shall not pay, compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304, F.S., and the General Appropriations Act for that case. The refusal to allow JAC to inspect contemporaneous records as provided herein is a material breach of this Registry Contract.

7. A finding by JAC that Attorney waives the right to seek compensation in excess of the flat fee established in s. 27.5304, F.S., and the General Appropriations Act, for failing to maintain detailed and contemporaneous records or for failing to allow JAC to inspect those records shall be presumed to be valid, unless a court concludes that JAC's finding is not supported by competent and substantial evidence.

8. JAC retains the authority to inspect Attorney's contemporaneous detailed records even after JAC has made payment. Upon conducting a post-payment review within five (5) years of final payment, if JAC determines Attorney has failed to maintain contemporaneous detailed records supporting payments, Attorney shall be liable for repaying JAC any amounts that cannot be substantiated notwithstanding any court order approving payment of attorney fees. In a judicial or other proceeding, any JAC determination that Attorney failed to maintain contemporaneous detailed records is presumed correct and Attorney must rebut this determination through clear and convincing evidence. If Attorney fails to maintain contemporaneous detailed records supporting payments pursuant to s. 27.5304, F.S., Attorney shall repay JAC any amounts paid in excess of the flat fee notwithstanding any court order approving payment of attorney fees. Any payment for attorney fees, costs, or related expenses not supported by contemporaneous detailed records is subject to full recovery by JAC. The method of recovery is at the discretion of JAC and may include, but not be limited to, offsets against future payments, direct reimbursement of overpayment to JAC by Attorney, or any other remedies available to a creditor by law. In a judicial or other proceeding, JAC's determination of the existence and amount of overpayment is presumed correct and Attorney must rebut any JAC determination through clear and convincing evidence.

9. Upon receipt of notice of inspection, audit, or any other form of review from JAC or other state or federal entity including, but not limited to, the Auditor General or the Office of Fiscal Integrity, Attorney has a legal duty to preserve all records and information potentially relevant. Any questions Attorney may have as to the relevance of particular records should be resolved in favor of preservation and retention. Attorney must take every reasonable step to preserve all potentially relevant records until further notice. Attorney shall discontinue any and all data destruction or server backup recycling policies that may be employed on electronic data.

10. The record retention requirements set forth in this Registry Contract are not exclusive. Attorney may have ethical or other obligations to maintain records beyond the period required under the Registry Contract.

## VII. TERMINATION

1. JAC shall have the right to terminate this Registry Contract immediately if, in its sole opinion, Attorney or Attorney's agents or employees fail to comply with the provisions of this Registry Contract. Such failure shall constitute a material breach of this Registry Contract by Attorney. In the event of breach of duty in a case by Attorney, Attorney shall not be entitled to payment of attorney fees, costs, and related expenses for work performed except by court order.

2. Upon thirty (30) days written notice, JAC or Attorney may, without cause, terminate this Registry Contract. Following termination of this Registry Contract pursuant to this paragraph, if Attorney is permitted by the court to withdraw from appointed cases, Attorney will be compensated pursuant to s. 27.5304, F.S.

3. Attorney is not eligible for any new appointments to cases in the event of termination of this Registry Contract, unless JAC executes a new Registry Contract with Attorney. Attorney shall notify the Chief Judge(s) of those circuits in which Attorney is a registry attorney of the termination of this Registry Contract. If Attorney is appointed to a case after termination of this Registry Contract, Attorney shall not seek payment for fees, costs, or related expenses for such case for Attorney, or for due process vendors, either directly or indirectly, from JAC and shall not motion the court for the payment of same by JAC. Such appointments will be considered pro bono work.

4. Prior to determining whether to terminate this Registry Contract, JAC may temporarily suspend the Registry Contract immediately, if, in its sole opinion, Attorney fails to comply with the provisions of this Registry Contract. A temporary suspension bars Attorney from accepting appointments on new cases while the contract is suspended but allows Attorney to work on existing cases unless the Registry Contract is terminated. A temporary suspension shall remain in effect until lifted by JAC or this Registry Contract is terminated. The decision to temporarily suspend the Registry Contract shall in no way bar JAC from deciding to terminate the contract for the conduct resulting in the temporary suspension.

5. Notice of suspension or termination of this Registry Contract must be in writing and sent via email to the email address(es) designated pursuant to this contract. Any notice of suspension of this Registry Contract by JAC or termination of same by either JAC or Attorney shall be copied to the Chief Judge(s) of those circuits in which Attorney is a registry attorney.

6. JAC, at its sole discretion, may suspend this Registry Contract pending Attorney's failure to maintain status in good standing with The Florida Bar for infractions that are curable. If a Chief Judge suspends Attorney, JAC shall suspend this Registry Contract as to the applicable circuit. Attorney is not eligible for any new appointments to cases during the period of suspension. Attorney shall notify the Chief Judge(s) of those circuits in which Attorney is a registry attorney of the suspension of this Registry Contract. If Attorney is appointed to a case during the period of suspension, Attorney shall not seek payment for fees, costs, or related expenses or for due process vendors for such case, either directly or indirectly from JAC.

#### VIII. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Attorney agrees to be responsible for the management and direction of all legal services pursuant to this Registry Contract.

2. Within thirty (30) days of a change of affiliation of Attorney from Legal Entity, this Registry Contract may be terminated.

3. For the purposes of this Registry Contract, the term "case" shall be defined as each matter assigned a case number by the clerk of the court to a Client. However, assignment of a case number solely for tracking purposes by the clerk may not constitute a case for payment purposes. In this event, the information or indictment shall identify the case(s) to which Attorney may be appointed. All cases which are consolidated, multiple counts, combined, or collapsed into another case number shall be considered one case under the surviving case number. In criminal cases, Attorney shall be compensated at the rate provided for the most serious offense for which Attorney represented the Client. In an ongoing Ch. 39 or Ch. 63, F.S., case, an additional child is not a new appointment or a new case for billing purposes. In a Ch. 39 or Ch. 63, F.S., case, if more than one parent is represented by the same attorney, the appointment shall be considered one case appointment for billing purposes.

4. If the court appoints a Legal Entity to provide legal representation for a Client, Attorney assigned to the case by the Legal Entity shall certify all fees, costs, and related expenses on behalf of Legal Entity and any billing to JAC. The assigned attorney shall be qualified and approved pursuant to s. 27.40, F.S., for the category of case to which Attorney is assigned. Attorney shall execute a contract with JAC.

5. If Attorney discovers any information that would raise a concern as to the ongoing indigency of the Client, then the Attorney shall advise the court and JAC of the changed circumstances or move to withdraw.

