



OFFICE OF THE ERIE COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MICHAEL J. KEANE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

GARY W. HACKBUSH
FIRST DEPUTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 24, 2026

The Honorable Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

Re: Authorization for Professional Services

Honorable Members:

Please find an enclosed resolution requesting authorization to engage the professional services of the Vera Causa Group, LLC and Tailored Training Programs, Inc for in-house training with our prosecutors.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter. If your Honorable Body requires any further information, kindly contact our office.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "MJK", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

MICHAEL J. KEANE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

MJK/lh

MEMORANDUM

To: Erie County Legislature
From: Michael J. Keane, District Attorney
Date: March 24, 2026
Re: Authorization for Professional Services

I. Summary of Recommended Action

The proposed resolution requests authorization for the District Attorney's Office to engage the services of the Vera Cause Group, LLC and Tailored Training Programs, LLC to provide specialized training to our prosecutors and investigators.

II. Fiscal Implication of Proposal

The cost for this training is not expected to exceed \$9,500, plus travel expenses, to the Vera Causa Group and \$2,960 including travel to Tailored Training Programs, LLC. Funds are available within our 2026 budget appropriations.

III. Reasons for Recommendation and Background of Proposal

Our office has engaged the services of Vera Causa Group, LLC to provide in-house one day training for our supervisory level attorneys. We recognize that our Deputy District Attorneys and Bureau Chiefs would greatly benefit from training that real world challenges that leaders in prosecuting attorneys' offices face daily. The Vera Cause Group offers specialized training and consulting services tailored specifically to prosecutors' needs delivered by nationally recognized experts who understand the unique pressures of prosecutorial work. Two experienced trainers will be on hand for the training session. The fee for these services is \$9,500 plus travel expenses. Total cost should not exceed \$11,000.

We have also engaged the services of Tailored Training Programs, LLC to provide our attorneys in house training on *The Science and Practice of Science-Based Interviewing*. Investigative interviewing is one of the most routine and critical tasks conducted by law enforcement. These interviews are essential for generating leads, corroborating evidence, sustaining the engagement of interviewees throughout the case, and building strong cases for prosecution. Advancing interview skills will assist all Assistant District Attorneys and Investigators in increasing cooperation of victims and witnesses which will lead to more successful prosecutions. These skills may also assist in identifying additional acts of violence against our victims and witnesses. A well-renowned facilitator will be on hand for this training session. The fee for these services is not expected to exceed \$3,400 including travel expenses.

IV. Consequences of Negative Action

Failure to approve this request will inhibit our ability to provide our attorneys with the best possible training to enhance their prosecutorial skills.

V. Steps Following Approval of Measure

The District Attorney's Office will work with the Division Purchasing to implement this proposal.

**RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY THE
DISTRICT ATTORNEY**

Re: Authorization for Professional Services

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office desires to secure the services of Vera Causa Group, LLC and Tailored Training Programs, LLC to provide training to our attorneys and investigators; and

WHEREAS, the District Attorney's Office seeks authorization to waive Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code due to impracticality; and

WHEREAS, there are sufficient funds in the 2026 appropriations of the District Attorney's Office;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby waives the procedures, as impractical, provided for in Section 26.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code for purposes of providing specialized in-house training; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to engage Vera Causa Group, LLC to provide leadership training to the attorneys of the District Attorney's Office in an amount not to exceed \$9,500 plus travel expenses; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive is hereby authorized to engage Tailored Training Programs LLC to provide science-based interview training to the attorneys and investigators of the District Attorney's Office in an amount not to exceed \$2,960 plus travel expenses; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the Division of Purchase to create all necessary documents to engage the services of Vera Causa Group, LLC and engage Tailored Training Programs LLC, and be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Erie County Executive, Erie County District Attorney, Erie County Division of Purchase, and the Erie County Comptroller.