



Leading Communities Perfect Solutions Quality Results

December 7, 2011

Hon. Noe Gonzalez  
370<sup>th</sup> State District Court  
Hidalgo County Courthouse  
100 N. Closner  
Edinburg, Texas 78539

**INVOICE NUMBER THREE**

**P.O. Number 665934**

**RE: Contract Number C-11-269-10**

**See Attached Task Report and Deliverable Hours**

**TOTAL DUE**

**\$14,000.00**

COPIES RECEIVED BY:  
*Estelona* on 12-7-11  
GOODS/SERVICES RECEIVED BY:  
*[Signature]* on 12-7-11

Work Authorization Number THREE  
Payment Approval Form

Invoice Number THREE Invoice Date 12/7/11 Invoice Submitted By Paul M. Vazaldua Jr.

Person Responsible	Hourly Rate	Number of Hours	Amount Due
Project Manager	\$75.00	88	\$6,600.00
General Council	\$75.00	30	\$2,250.00
Director of Planning and Development	\$50.00	88	\$4,400.00
Graphic Designer	\$35.00	7.14	\$250.00
Office Manager	\$27.00	18	\$500.00
Total This Invoice			\$14,000.00

Review of Backup Documentation by Department: YES

Approval of Payment by Department: YES

SIGN IN SHEET  
NOVEMBER 28, 2011



**ESTER CONTRERAS**  
DISTRICT COURT COORDINATOR

**IDA L. PÉREZ**  
CRIMINAL CASE COORDINATOR

**FRANK B. MORENO, CSR-RPR**  
OFFICIAL COURT REPORTER

**NOÉ GONZALEZ**  
JUDGE, 370th JUDICIAL DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HIDALGO COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
100 N. CLOSNER, 1st FLOOR  
EDINBURG, TEXAS 78539  
(956) 318-2280

**ALICIA SALINAS**  
COURT BAILIFF/INTERPRETER

Hon. Ricardo P. Rodriguez, Jr. **HAND DELIVERED** *Judge*

Hon. Rodolfo "Rudy" Delgado **HAND DELIVERED**

Hon. Bobby Flores **HAND DELIVERED**

Hon. Rose Guerra Reyna **HAND DELIVERED** *Judge Rose Guerra*

Hon. Juan R. Partida **HAND DELIVERED** *Juan R. Partida*

Hon. Mario Ramirez, Jr. **HAND DELIVERED** *Damian*

Hon. Leticia Lopez **HAND DELIVERED** *le*

Hon. Aida Salinas Flores **HAND DELIVERED**

Hon. Isreal Ramon, Jr. **HAND DELIVERED** *eg for IRS*

Hon. Rene Guerra, District Attorney **HAND DELIVERED** *Homer Vasquez / Josie Ramirez / Amy Bayna  
Belinda Anzaldua*

Hon. Lupe Trevino, Sherriff (956) 393-6038

Mr. Arnold Patrick, Community Supervision and Corrections Department FAX (956) 318-2488

Mr. Isidro Sepulveda, Indigent Defense Program, **HAND DELIVERED** *IS*



Leading Communities Perfect Solutions Quality Results

*THANK YOU*

TO:

Hon. Noe Gonzalez, Hon. Juan Partida, Hon. Rose Reyna Guerra, Hon. Leticia Lopez  
Hon. Isreal Ramon, Damian Caranza for Hon. Mario Ramizez, Homer Vasquez, District  
Attorney's Office, Josie Ramirez, District Attorney's Office, Amy Bayuna, District  
Attorney's Office, Belinda Anzaldua, District Attorney's Office, Isidro Sepulveda,  
Indigent Defense

Hon. Rudy Delgado, Hon. Bobby Flores, Hon. Aida Salinas Flores, Hon. Lupe Trevino,  
Mr. Arnold Patrick

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I wanted to express great thanks to everyone who attended the meeting yesterday as well as provide you meeting highlights for those who did not get to make the meeting.

On Monday, November 28, 2011 a meeting was held at the 430<sup>th</sup> State District Court to discuss five grant programs that would assist the judicial system on cases of Violence Against Woman and one on Human Trafficking Awareness.

During the meeting Hon. Noe Gonzalez provided an overview of the intent that the grant programs. Judge N. Gonzalez expressed that he had attended a Judicial Seminar where he was impressed with what he learned how improvements were needed in the area of Violence Against Woman and Human Trafficking.

The Hon. Israel Ramon will be providing data on the cases which he has provided service to with respect to protective orders and other cases dealing with violence against woman. Judge Ramon has met with me and will be providing information that would assist in the grant writing process.

The Hon. Rose Reyna Guerra, who sits on the committee at the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council who reviews the grants prior to sending to the U.S. Department of Justice, has indicated that she is extremely pleased that the County of Hidalgo is going to participate in these grant programs. In previous years as a committee member she has seen funding going to only Willacy and Cameron Counties.

Judge Rose Reyna Guerra has agreed to meet with Paul M. Vazaldua in order to provide input on how the grant programs can help provide services and alleviate pressures of the courts, probation, law enforcement, and prosecution. Judge Rose Reyna Guerra further expressed that the fact that all of the aforementioned office are willing to work together towards making these projects happen is already half the battle in the grant competition.

Judge Juan Partida who was in attendance at the meeting said that after listening to the groups discussion that he is prepared to support the project and to be in favor of it once brought forth at a Board of Judges meeting.

Judge Leticia Lopez joined the discussion by asking Judge Rose Reyna Guerra how the County of Hidalgo could be eligible for even greater funds that Cameron County for such projects. Judge Rose Reyna Guerra said our first step is to apply.

A handout was provided (attached) which gives a brief description of each of the grant solicitations. Mr. Paul M. Vazaldua, Jr. of Vazaldua and Associates asked that everyone provide input on how each of the grant programs could help the courts in order to make improvements as well as provide an expedited service on cases of violence against woman and on cases of human trafficking.

Mr. Homer Vasquez of the District Attorney's Office has suggested that we consider including certified court interpreters as part of this program. I expressed to the group present that these were the type of suggestions from all stakeholders. Mr. Vasquez and Ms. Josie Ramirez were taking information back to Mr. Rene Guerra to explain the need for support for the project. Ms. Josie Ramirez has reported back to me that Mr. Guerra has expressed interest to be on board and support the project.

Mr. Isidro Sepulveda of the Indigent Defense Project indicated that he can assist by providing data on the indigent defense cases.

## PROGRAM SUMMARY

### Court Improvements Grant Projects

Funding Source: U.S. Department of Justice – Office of Woman Against Violence

#### **Court Training and Improvements Program**

##### ***Specialized Domestic Violence Court Enhancement Project up to \$450,000***

The Court Training and Improvements Program (Courts Program) is designed to improve court responses to adult and youth domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

##### ***Specialized Domestic Violence Court Enhancement Project – 36 months***

Specialized Domestic Violence Courts consist of specific infrastructure and procedural practices for handling domestic violence cases. This court model specifically addresses concerns of traditional domestic violence cases where multiple judges and attorneys handle different aspects of a case. Research strongly indicates that building extensive collaboration

#### **Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services for Victims Program up to \$300,00.00**

The Grants to Enhance Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services for Victims of Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking (Culturally and Linguistically Specific Services Program) will fund projects that promote the maintenance and replication of existing successful domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking community-based programs providing culturally and linguistically specific services and other resources. The program also will support the development of innovative culturally and linguistically specific strategies and projects to enhance access to services and resources for victims of violence against women. Grant funds **may** be used to provide legal representation to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in protection order proceedings. (Funds may be used for Indigent Defense Program)

#### **Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders up to \$750,000.00**

The Grants to Encourage Arrest Policies and Enforcement of Protection Orders (Arrest Program) encourages state, local, and tribal governments and state, local, and tribal courts to treat domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as serious violations of criminal law requiring coordination with nonprofit, nongovernmental victim advocates and representatives from the criminal justice system. This program challenges the whole community to communicate, identify problems, and share ideas that will result in new responses and the application of best practices to enhance victim safety and offender accountability.

#### **Rural Grant Program up to \$1 million**

The Rural Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking Assistance Program (Rural Program) enhances the safety of children, youth, and adults who are victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking by supporting projects uniquely designed to address and prevent these crimes in rural jurisdictions. The Program encourages collaboration between victim advocates, law enforcement officers, pre-trial service personnel, prosecutors, judges and other court personnel, probation and parole officers, and faith- and/or community-based leaders to overcome the problems of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking and ensure that victim safety is paramount in providing services to victims and their children.

Legal services in civil and criminal matters, such as family law cases (divorce, custody, visitation and child support), housing cases, consumer law cases and other legal services for victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, beyond assistance in seeking protection orders and limited immigration matters (i.e. U-visas). Legal representation may be provided to victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking in the context of protection order proceedings and limited immigration matters. (Funds may be used for Indigent Defense Program)

**Technical Assistance Program up to \$900,000.00**

The primary purpose of the OVW TA Program is to provide direct assistance to grantees to enhance the success of local projects they are implementing with VAWA grant funds. In addition, OVW is focused on building the capacity of criminal justice and victim services organizations to respond effectively to sexual assault, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking and to foster partnerships among organizations that have not traditionally worked together to address violence against women.

Paul M. Vazaldua, Jr. has registered for the MANDATORY WORKSHOP set forth by the Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council. Workshop will be held in McAllen on December 8, 2011.