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RE: Sole Source Designation

Dear Angie/Elena:

West, the foremost provider of integrated information solutions to the U.S. legal market, has been providing research materials to the legal and professional community for more than 135 years. We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide you with information concerning Westlaw, our online legal, news, and business information research service containing more than 32,600 databases.

This letter is to confirm West's status as the sole source provider for the following exclusive content, features, and services on Westlaw:

Exclusive Content

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- **West Key Number System.** The West Key Number System, [a Westlaw exclusive](#), is the master classification system of U.S. law and is widely regarded as the cornerstone of effective legal research. It helps users to quickly locate and identify cases with the same or similar legal concepts and principals in any jurisdiction in the U.S.
- **Editorial Enhancements.** For more than 100 years, West attorney-editors have been providing editorial enhancements to case law, statutes, and other legal materials. No other research service can match West's editorial experience. [West's exclusive enhancements](#) include headnotes (more than 350,000 created annually), synopses (more than 60,000 created annually), and parallel citations (more than 500,000 added annually). West's headnotes are classified to West's exclusive Key Number System, which helps users find more relevant cases.
- **Correction and Verification Process.** West attorney-editors provide the most exhaustive verification and correction process in the legal publishing and information industry. West is the only legal information provider to engage in these quality control steps to ensure the accuracy and reliability of the data.
- **Restatements of the Law.** The Restatements of the Law are principles of black letter law distilled from case law. The restatement databases on Westlaw provide a section's black letter law, reporter's notes, commentary, illustrations, and annotations in one document. First Restatements of the Law, [available exclusively on Westlaw](#), are provided for several areas of law (e.g., contracts, torts). The first Restatements can help researchers trace the evolution of

a law, or an area of law. They also aid in the interpretation of older cases that rely on first Restatement sections.

- **Uniform Laws Annotated.** The Uniform Laws Annotated (ULA), [available exclusively on Westlaw](#), provides an extensive reference to the text of uniform laws, prepared under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws and the American Law Institute. ULA examines acts recommended for adoption in all states, as well as pinpoints state variations. It also includes annotations to cases decided in adopting jurisdictions.
- **National Digest System.** West's Key Number Digests have been an essential case-finding tool since the United States Digest was first published in 1848. A digest is a multi-volume index to the law consisting of major topic headings, thousands of subheadings, and short summaries of legal propositions stated in published court cases. These summaries are commonly referred to as headnotes.
- **American Jurisprudence Library.** The American Jurisprudence Library products provide fast, authoritative answers to many aspects of civil, criminal, substantive, and procedural law. Westlaw provides [exclusive online access](#) to the full library, which includes American Jurisprudence 2d, Am Jur Proof of Facts, Am Jur Trials, and AmJur Pleadings and Practice Forms Annotated.
- **Corpus Juris Secundum (CJS).** CJS, [available exclusively on Westlaw](#), helps researchers understand unfamiliar areas of law by providing links to cases, statutes, regulations, West key Numbers, Restatements of the Law, and more. CJS covers the full breadth and depth of the law and is cited to tens of thousands times by the courts. It provides quick overviews of topics with Black Letter Summaries and is also fully integrated with the West Key Number System.
- **Public Utilities Reports (PUR).** Westlaw has [exclusive online access](#) to *Public Utilities Reports, Fourth Series*, the only case law reporter devoted to state-level regulation of public utilities.
- **Briefs on Westlaw.** Westlaw provides access to an [extensive and exclusive collection](#) of appellate briefs databases at both the federal and state levels. As of July 2009, Westlaw contains more than 1.9 million separate documents and the number of briefs is growing monthly. Many of the briefs databases, such as U.S. Supreme Court Petitions for Certiorari, are added to Westlaw shortly after being filed with the court.
- **West Reporter Images.** West Reporter Images (WRI) provides cost effective, easy access to an exact electronic copy of a National Reporter System case through westlaw.com. Because WRI is tied directly to the West published National Reporter System cases, no other online providers can provide a comparable product.

Exclusive Features and Services

- **KeyCite Citator Service.** KeyCite is a full-service citator that helps users determine whether a case is good law by tracing the history of a case, statute, or federal administrative decision. KeyCite also retrieves all citing references, which include cases, statutes, administrative materials, and secondary sources. The following are among the many [exclusive citator features](#) and services available on Westlaw:
 - **West Key Number System Integration.** KeyCite is completely integrated with West's exclusive topic and key number system, the most accurate tool devised for finding on-point law.
 - **More Citing References.** KeyCite provides more citing references, including references to more than 1,200 law reviews, thousands of ALR annotations and Am Jur 2d articles, USCA, *Code of Federal Regulations*, statutes from all 50 states, select administrative decisions,

state jurisprudence encyclopedias, and numerous treatises. In fact, KeyCite has more than two times as many citing references overall and averages more than two times as many citing references per document as the nearest competitor.

- **Headnote References.** KeyCite provides the full text of West headnotes, which helps users to quickly limit citing references to a relevant point of law. KeyCite contains 50% more headnote references than any other citator.
 - **Analytical Sources.** With more than 3,100 analytical sources, KeyCite gives users more expert analyses than any other citator.
 - **Pending Legislation.** KeyCite notifies users of pending legislation that may affect a federal or state statute (available for all 50 states).
 - **Depth-of-Treatment Stars.** Depth of treatment stars help users zero in on the most useful citing cases and administrative decisions by indicating the extent to which the citing document discusses the cited case.
 - **Graphical KeyCite.** With KeyCite, users can display the direct history of a case, which traces the case through the appellate process, in an easy-to-read graphical view. With this graphical view of direct history, every reversal, rehearing, reconsideration, denial of certiorari, or other action in a case is placed in context. As a result, the graphical view can save users valuable time when they are checking the procedural history of a case.
 - **KeyCite Notes.** KeyCite Notes provides a list of sources, sorted by type of publication and the number of documents that cite the case and legal issue that a user is researching. KeyCite Notes leverages the power of KeyCite, Westlaw, analytical materials, and West headnotes to give users superior in-depth, accurate results, and is available exclusively on Westlaw.
 - **KeyCite Locate.** KeyCite Locate helps users to home in on citing references that are the most relevant to their research. It allows users to search the full text of citing references in a KeyCite result and limit the KeyCite result to only those documents that contain the specific terms they request. KeyCite Locate also allows users to request that search terms appear within the same paragraph as the cited reference, which results in even more precise research.
- **StatutesPlus.** Westlaw StatutesPlus combines book-like indexing, browsing, and viewing with links to everything discussing a given statute. Users can find, verify, read, and interpret statutes with amazing efficiency. This powerful statutes-research feature is a [Westlaw exclusive](#).
 - **ResultsPlus.** ResultsPlus, a feature [available exclusively on Westlaw](#), automatically displays related ALR articles, AmJur annotations and articles, and Key Numbers alongside case law search result. ResultsPlus creates a total research solution by linking users to all the other on point resources needed to complete their research—analysis, cases, statutes, law reviews and more.
 - **Smart Tools.** Smart Tools on Westlaw make it easier for researchers to find on-point results and help ensure that users don't miss information. When a researcher runs a search, Smart Tools can help improve search results by suggesting alternative spellings and synonyms, suggesting a broader database search when a search result contains five or fewer documents, and detecting a variety of mistakes in a query. Smart Tools also recognizes legal terms of art and can suggest related legal terms that a researcher may want to add to a query; this feature is [available exclusively on Westlaw](#).
 - **Customizable Westlaw.** Users can customize their westlaw.com tabs to enhance their Westlaw experience. With this Westlaw exclusive, users can build and rearrange the content on select Westlaw tabs so that the tabs are more intuitive to them and designed to fit their

workflow. Customizable Westlaw helps users to quickly access the information they need to get better results faster.

- **System Availability.** West's expertly trained staff helps ensure that uninterrupted Westlaw and westlaw.com service is provided [24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year](#). In contrast, other computer-assisted legal research providers shut down their systems regularly (e.g., nightly, weekly) for maintenance and updating.
- **PastStat Locator.** With PastStat Locator, [a Westlaw exclusive](#), users can view prior versions of sections in USCA, as well as prior versions of various states. In all jurisdictions, PastStat Locator can also rebuild the Table of Contents and show how it existed on a particular date. PastStat Locator can also identify when a statute or amendment has a future activation date, or when a statute or amendment is due to lapse. Additionally, PastStat Locator also tracks renumbered statute sections.
- **Graphical Statutes.** Graphical Statutes, [available exclusively on Westlaw](#), revolutionizes statute research by charting legislative changes and linking related documents in an easy-to-read display. From a single screen, researchers can easily track changes in the law, locate relevant legislative history materials, read important case law, and check for possible amendments. Graphical Statutes is available for USCA and the statutes for select states.
- **RegulationsPlus.** RegulationsPlus, [a Westlaw exclusive](#), provides a comprehensive and efficient federal regulatory research system that provides researchers with the tools to complete their regulations research more efficiently and with complete confidence. RegulationsPlus helps researchers stay fully informed on any regulatory issue with editorial summaries of case law decisions, KeyCite notification of changing and proposed regulations, version history, citing references and more.

Attached for your review is a more detailed document listing the exclusive databases, features and services that only West can provide to Hidalgo County Law Library. I would be happy to discuss with you which of these databases, features, and services are available to you. If you have any questions concerning this document or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

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