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## MEMORANDUM SOLE SOURCE JUSTIFICATION

TO: Hidalgo County Commissioner's Court

FROM: Eduardo Belmarez, MBA, CPM *EB*

DATE: August 18, 2022

RE: Sole Source Justification for Lexis Nexis

1. Explain why the request of services or goods cannot be competitively bid and why this purchase is economically only available from a single source?
  - a. They cannot be competitively bid because our ADAs become accustomed to the user interface of the system, and having a change in systems each time we go out for bids will prevent efficiency in the DA's Office.
    - i. Sometimes during trial an attorney has 10-15 minutes to locate case law. In the event that the vendor is changed it would take about 6 months to adjust to the new interface which would inhibit our ability to prosecute cases accurately.
  - b. LexisNexis has a very accurate sherardization process that other similar services do not provide. This is important because our ADAs need to be able to provide reliable case citations while in court. We cannot be citing cases if it is no longer good law, reliance on the case is faulty.
  - c. Other similar services do not give prior versions of law, and at the DA's office we prosecute crimes based on the setting of the crime.
  - d. Case headnotes from LexisNexis contain language directly from court opinions rather than competitor's editorial interpretations.
2. Describe the uniqueness of items or services to be procured from the proposed vendor (e.g., compatibility or patent issues).
  - a. User interface for LexisNexis is much more user friendly. They use a computer



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- assisted legal research interface that make large bodies of law easily available.
- b. LexisNexis offers a superior search engine than other similar databases. Their search engine uses word ties/connectors that populate 1000s of results that allow the attorney to use more words to funnel results to the topic or law they are looking for as well as natural language search, not just one or the other but both.
  - c. Lexis Answers provides Artificial Intelligence that interprets the searches and mines answers. When a user types a query AI is able to learn and understand the query offering suggestions to your research.
3. How did the agency determine that the item or service is only available from one source (e.g., market survey results, independent agency research, patented or proprietary system).
- a. LexisNexis offers patented services that other vendors do not provide.