

## **Contract of Employment and Consent to Third Party Payment**

This Agreement is entered into between and among the Law Office of Steven L. Lee, P.C. (hereinafter referred to as "the Lee Firm" or "Lawyer"), Williamson County, Texas (hereinafter referred to as "Williamson County"), and Jennifer Amanda Kate Rice (hereinafter referred to as or "Client" or "Rice"). Rice was employed by the Williamson County Attorney's Office during the times pertinent to the grievance matters that are the subject of this agreement and remains a current employee of the Williamson County Attorney's Office.

Williamson County, acting through its Commissioners Court, wishes to retain the Lee Firm to represent Rice at the Investigatory Level of the attorney grievance styled as 202302655 - State Bar of Texas - Austin -- Jennifer "Amanda" Amanda Kate Rice.

This Agreement is executed to memorialize that Rice understands that Williamson County, acting through its officers, employees, and agents, has agreed to pay for her legal representation in the above identified matter but that Williamson County does not have the authority to direct the manner of her representation by the Lee Firm and the lawyers associated with the Lee Firm shall exercise independent professional judgment solely on behalf of Rice in relationship with the representation in the referenced attorney grievance.

This Agreement is further executed to memorialize that Williamson County, acting through its officers, employees, and agents, understands that Williamson County does not have the authority to direct the manner of the representation of Rice by the Lee Firm and the lawyers associated with the Lee Firm shall exercise independent professional judgment solely on behalf of Rice in relationship with the representation in the referenced attorney grievance.

Williamson County agrees that Rice and the Lee Firm shall have the cooperation in the investigation of this matter of any and all Williamson County employees who may have knowledge of relevant facts. Williamson County further agrees that all county employees and officials who are requested to provide information or otherwise assist in the representation of Rice in the attorney grievance shall be informed that the Texas attorney grievance process is confidential, and no

information acquired shall be revealed to third parties without the consent of Rice and/or the Lee Firm. Williamson County also agrees that communication with its employees and officials in relation to the investigation of the attorney grievance do not impair Rice's protected attorney-client privilege and such communications shall be considered privileged from disclosure to third parties.

The Williamson County Commissioners Court, acting on behalf of Williamson County, Texas, understands and agrees the Law Firm's billing rate to be \$500.00 per hour for Steven Lee and Susan Brotman's time, and further agrees that Williamson County will receive monthly billings directed to the attention of the Williamson County Commissioners Court's General Counsel's Office and pay them within thirty (30) days of receipt.

It is agreed and understood that Williamson County will be responsible for all reasonable and necessary expenses deemed by the Law Office of Steven L. Lee, P.C. to be expedient or necessary in the investigation, presentation, and defense of the referenced attorney grievance.

It is further understood that should representation in a de novo proceeding be necessary, whether an administrative hearing before an Evidentiary Panel of a State Bar of Texas Grievance Committee or a trial in State District Court, that will require a new agreement with the Law Office of Steven L. Lee, P.C., if Rice desires the Law Firm's representation in such matter. In such case, Williamson County will have the discretion to determine whether or not to be a party to such new agreement and fund any such representation of Rice.

This Agreement contains the entire agreement between the Client, the Law Firm, and Williamson County regarding this matter and the fees, charges, and expenses to be paid relative thereto. This Agreement shall not be modified except by written agreement signed by the Client, the Lee Firm, and Williamson County. This Agreement shall be binding upon the Client, the Lee Firm, and Williamson County and their respective heirs, executors, legal representatives, and successors.

The undersigned Client shall keep the Lee Firm informed of her correct addresses, email addresses, and phone numbers. In the event an address, email, and phone number changes and the

Lee Firm is not notified and cannot communicate with Client, the Lee Firm is hereby authorized to take whatever action may be necessary to protect her interests without the prior approval of the undersigned Client.

The Lee Firm agrees to use best efforts in representing the Client in this matter and agrees to promptly inform Client of any significant developments in the matter. The Client acknowledges that the Lee Firm has given no assurances regarding the outcome of this matter.

This contract is performable in Travis County, Texas. This is a contract for personal services and is terminable at will by either the Law Office of Steven L. Lee, P.C., the undersigned Client, or Williamson County. In the event the Agreement is terminated, it is understood and agreed that only the amounts due for services provided and expenses incurred to and including the date of termination, will be due and payable.

Signed by each signatory on the dates indicated.

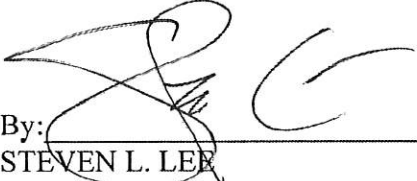
WILLIAMSON COUNTY, TEXAS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
BILL GRAVELL, JR. (date)  
COUNTY JUDGE

And Individually:

 6/7/23  
JENNIFER AMANDA KATE RICE (date)

THE LAW OFFICE OF STEVEN L. LEE, P.C.

 6/7/23  
By: STEVEN L. LEE (date)