# BRACEWELL

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May 4, 2016

Personal and Confidential
Attorney-Client Communication
Attorney Work-Product

Hon. Dan A. Gattis Williamson County Judge 710 S. Main Street, Suite 101 Georgetown, Texas 78626

Re: Engagement Letter for Robert L. Lloyd v. Birkman et al.

# Dear Judge Gattis:

Thank you for engaging us to represent the Defendants in the above-referenced lawsuit. We appreciate the confidence you have shown in Bracewell LLP ("Bracewell" or "Firm") and look forward to this opportunity to represent you in these matters.

It is our practice to confirm the terms and conditions of our engagements, and that is the purpose of this Engagement Letter and the attached Terms of Engagement. This engagement has been approved by Bracewell subject to the conditions described in this letter.

#### Scope of Engagement

Bracewell will represent all of the Defendants in the referenced lawsuit. We will also represent the County in the EEOC Charge (collectively "Client").

This letter, and Bracewell's Standard Terms of Engagement, govern all projects and engagements for Client.

This Engagement Letter may be supplemented to reflect new matters or issues that deviate from the current engagement in scope, billing arrangements, complexity, risk, or that otherwise require a substantial change in terms and conditions. The Terms of Engagement, however, will govern all projects and engagements for Client.

# Fees, Expenses and Billing

Attorneys' fees will be based on an hourly charge as follows:

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<u>Attorney</u>	Title	Rate
Jay Aldis	Partner	\$350/hr.
Alan Albright	Partner	\$350/br.
Jessica Freedson	Associate	\$275/hr.
Gayle McKay	Paralegal	\$175/hr.
Anne Marie Hamilton	Paralegal	\$175/hr.

In addition to legal fees, Client will be responsible for expenses incurred by the Firm on behalf of Client. Expenses charged by third-parties that are incurred specifically on your behalf (e.g., filing fees and expert's fees) will be billed at cost. Other expenses for which the Firm contracts in bulk (e.g., online research, imaging, facsimile and litigation support) will include a reasonable allocation of overhead for clients using those services.

Matters involving the production of electronically stored information may result in additional fees and expenses being incurred by the Firm and/or by third-party vendors on behalf of Client. See the attached Terms of Engagement for more details.

An invoice for fees and expenses will be submitted on a periodic basis, generally monthly, and payment is due upon receipt. It is important for you to bring any question regarding the fees or reimbursable expenses charged in this matter to my attention within 30 days after receipt. Should these amounts not be paid promptly, Client agrees that Bracewell may immediately withdraw from representation, cease representation, or terminate the engagement on these or other matters, as permitted under the rules regulating our profession.

# Conflicts of Interest: Applicable Standard

For purposes of evaluating conflicts of interest, Client acknowledges that Bracewell relies upon the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct. Bracewell may represent other clients that may be adverse to your interests in substantially unrelated matters, and it may represent other clients within the same industry.

#### Alternative Dispute Resolution

Disputes arising under or pertaining to this engagement shall be resolved, if possible, by a non-binding mediation conducted by a mutually acceptable mediator at a location that is acceptable to Client and Bracewell. The mediation process may be initiated by a written request with a list of acceptable mediators and site for the proceeding. In the event mediation is not successful, the parties agree to resolve their dispute by arbitration conducted according to the rules of the American Arbitration Association for non-administered proceedings or an authorized fee arbitration program. Texas law shall apply exclusively to any dispute arising under or related

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in any way to this Agreement or Client's engagement of, or representation by, Bracewell. Venue of any such dispute shall lie exclusively in Texas. Client and Bracewell waive any challenge to the application of Texas law or of Texas venue to any such dispute.

# Conclusion

You are encouraged to discuss the terms of this engagement letter with independent counsel of your choice. Please call me if you wish to discuss any aspect of this engagement.

If this Engagement Letter and the Terms of Engagement are acceptable, please sign the enclosed copy and return it to me.

Thank you again for the opportunity to represent you and your firm in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Bracewell LLP

AGREED AND ACCEPTED:

Williamson Count

Date:

Mr. Henry W. Prejean cc:

Civil Chief/Of Counsel

Williamson County Attorney's Office

405 M.L.K. Street, Box 7

Georgetown, Texas 78626

# BRACEWELL LLP TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT

## Introduction

These are the Terms of Engagement adopted by Bracewell LLP ("Bracewell") and the addressee of the preceding Engagement Letter ("Client") and referred to in our Engagement Letter as the basis for our representation. Because they are an integral part of our agreement to provide representation, we ask that you review this document carefully and retain it for your files. If you have any questions after reading it, please promptly inform your principal contact at the Firm.

# Client of the Firm

Because Bracewell has been engaged to represent the Client only, the engagement does not include the Client's family members or affiliated or related entities.

Unless otherwise specifically stated in the Engagement Letter, our representation does not include any parent, subsidiary, or affiliated entity; employee, officer, director, shareholder, member or partner of an entity; or, any commonly owned entity. For any trade association, our representation does not include any member of the trade association; and for individuals, our representation does not include any employer, partner, spouse, sibling, or other family member. In the event we are asked to undertake representation of any other entity in connection with this engagement, we will do so only by agreement defined in the Engagement Letter.

# Our Relationship with Others and Conflicts of Interest

Conflict of Interest is a concern for Bracewell and its clients. We attempt to identify actual and potential conflicts at the outset of each engagement. Unfortunately, conflicts sometimes arise or become apparent after work begins on an engagement. When that happens, we will do our best to address and resolve the situation in the manner that best serves the interests of all of our affected clients.

If a Conflict of Interest unrelated to this engagement develops between you and another client of Bracewell, you consent to the firm's adverse representation in the unrelated matter.

Bracewell accepts this engagement on the understanding that our representation of you will not preclude us from accepting another engagement from a new or existing client provided that (1) such engagement is not substantially related to the subject matter of services we provide to you and (2) such other engagement would not impair the confidentiality of related client information.

# Staffing the Project

In most cases, one attorney will be your primary contact. In order to provide you with the expertise of our firm, and to provide services on a cost-effective basis, that attorney will delegate parts of your work to other lawyers, paralegals and professionals.

# Billing Arrangements and Terms of Payment

Fees for professional services and expenses are not contingent on the outcome of the project, unless expressly stated in the Engagement Letter.

Bracewell issues invoices on a periodic basis, normally each month, for fees and expenses. Invoices are due on receipt and are considered past due 30 days after receipt.

Clients frequently ask us to estimate the fees and other charges they are likely to incur in connection with a particular matter. Any estimate is based on professional judgment and facts and circumstances that appear at the time. As such, any estimate is subject to the understanding that, unless we agree otherwise in writing, it does not represent a maximum, minimum, or fixed-fee quotation. The ultimate cost frequently is more or less than the amount estimated.

It may be necessary for us to retain third parties, such as consultants, experts and investigators, in order to represent you adequately. In that event, you will be responsible for the prompt payment of the invoices of those third parties. Although we may advance third-party disbursements in reasonable amounts, we will ask you to pay larger third-party invoices (usually those over \$500) directly to the third party providing the services.

Although an insurer's payment of defense costs may be applied to billings of the firm, the payment obligation remains with you. Failure of any insurer to pay all or part of the billings for this project does not relieve you from the obligation to pay billings in full and in a timely manner.

# Matters Involving e-Discovery

Many matters require the handling or production of electronically stored information ("ESI"). In litigation, the rules of civil procedure in federal court, as well as in many other jurisdictions, address the gathering and production of ESI ("e-Discovery"). Failure to comply with the rules governing e-Discovery can subject Client and the Firm to possible discovery sanctions. The Firm has developed an e-Practice Department (the "e-Department") to assist the Firm's clients in litigation matters that involve e-Discovery issues. The e-Department head, a lawyer who specializes in e-Discovery matters ("e-Practice Counsel"), and the e-Practice Project Managers will assist Client in handling e-Discovery projects that may arise in connection with the Firm's representation of Client.

The Firm has identified a number of preferred e-Discovery providers that it can recommend to Client ("Outside Vendors"). Client will make the ultimate decision on which Outside Vendor to retain on a matter. Client will contract directly with and will be invoiced by the Outside Vendor for e-Discovery services. In most cases, the Outside Vendor will handle the collection, processing, hosting, and production of Client's ESI. The Firm's e-Department professionals will serve as a liaison between Client, the Outside Vendor and the Firm's attorneys throughout the process, and the Firm will bill the Client for that time. Unless other arrangements are made between the Firm and Client, the Firm's lawyers will handle the review of Client's ESI before production.

Certain matters involving less than 5GB of ESI can be handled by the Firm internally, rather than by an Outside Vendor. In such matters, and upon prior agreement between Client and the Firm, an Outside Vendor will collect the Client's ESI and deliver to the Firm for processing, hosting, review and production. Client will contract directly with the provider for the collection of the ESI. The Firm will charge the client from \$150 to \$250 per GB for processing, depending on the format of the data, and from \$20 to \$40 per GB per month for hosting/storage, depending on the volume of the data.

It is anticipated that the Firm's e-Department professionals will assist Client in both e-Discovery matters handled by Outside Vendors and those handled by the Firm internally. The Firm will bill Client for the time of these professionals.

# Interest on Past Due Accounts

If Client fails to pay any invoice when due, the past due amount shall accrue interest at the rate of six percent (6%) per annum, beginning on the date due until paid in full. Such interest shall be calculated based upon a year of 365/366 days (as applicable) for the actual number of days the invoice has been outstanding beyond the due date, and shall be compounded monthly. Such interest shall be payable upon demand and will be invoiced separately. The total interest due on past due invoices is available upon inquiry.

## Taxes

The Client agrees that all payments under the Engagement Letter shall be payable to Bracewell in U.S. Dollars, free and clear of any and all present and future taxes, levies, imposts, duties, deductions, withholdings, fees, liabilities and similar charges (the "Taxes"). If any Taxes are required to be withheld or deducted from any amount payable under the Engagement Letter, then the amount payable under the Engagement Letter shall be increased to the amount which, after deduction from such increased amount of all Taxes required to be withheld or deducted therefrom, will yield to Bracewell the amounts stated to be payable to Bracewell under the Engagement Letter.

#### Termination

Because Bracewell has been engaged to provide services in connection with the representation specifically defined in our Engagement Letter, the attorney-client relationship terminates upon our completion of those services.

You may terminate the engagement at any time, with or without cause, by notifying us in writing. The firm also can terminate the engagement before the completion of its representation of you in the specified matter if (a) the continued representation would result in a violation of the applicable rules of professional conduct or other law; (b) the termination can be accomplished without material adverse effect on your interests; (c) you persist in a course of action that Bracewell reasonably believes is criminal or fraudulent, or you have used our services to perpetrate a crime or fraud, (d) the firm has a fundamental disagreement with the objective or tactics in this engagement; (e) you deliberately and substantially fail to discharge an obligation regarding this engagement, including the payment of fees and expenses and the duty of

cooperation as provided in the Terms of Engagement; or (f) other good cause for termination exist. In the event that the firm intends to terminate the engagement, the firm will give reasonable notice and allow you access to your files relating to this engagement.

For purposes of this Engagement Letter, this engagement terminates upon written notice of termination by Client or by Bracewell, or 120 days after the date of Bracewell's last substantive legal service billed to Client's account, whichever may first occur.

The termination of our services will not affect your responsibility for payment of legal services rendered and other charges incurred before termination and in connection with an orderly transition of the project.

After completion of the representation, however, changes may occur in the applicable laws or regulations that could affect your future rights and liabilities in regard to the matter. Bracewell has no continuing obligation to give advice with respect to any future legal developments that may relate to the project.

# Retention of Client Files

Client files are limited to: materials supplied by Client; final contracts; estate planning documents, deeds and corporate records; and, routine correspondence related to this engagement. At the close of any matter, Client files may be returned to you, sent to a private storage facility, archived for a limited time or destroyed. The attorney closing the file will determine, at his or her discretion, the disposition of Client files, unless you make a specific written request that they be returned.

Your request for return of Client files must be delivered to Bracewell no later than 120 days after the last substantive service relating to the closed matter. A substantive service does not include audit letter research and preparation, or any other service that does not directly relate to the substantive discharge of a Client engagement. Your request must be specific and designate your representative to receive the files. Client is responsible for paying the reasonable cost to retrieve, duplicate and deliver the Client files.

Bracewell adopted a program of document retention and management of electronically stored information, including regular deletion of outdated, corrupt or useless files. Such program may change from time-to-time.

It is important for Client to alert Bracewell in advance of special treatment, sensitive information, retention requirements and other unique conditions pertaining to Client files. Client agrees that it will notify Bracewell in a timely, written and specific manner, concerning any requirement for special or unusual handling or attention of its Client files. This includes any statutory or regulatory requirements relating to confidentiality and retention of Client files.

## Bracewell Files

You agree that Bracewell will own and retain its own files and any related electronically stored information pertaining to the engagement. You will not have the right or ability to require us to deliver such files and records (or copies thereof) to you. Examples of Bracewell files and

records are: firm administrative records, financial files and documents, time and expense reports, personnel and staffing materials, credit and accounting records, electronic mail correspondence (other than such correspondence which was sent to you by a member of our firm) and internal lawyer's work product, such as drafts, notes, memoranda and legal and factual research, including investigative reports prepared by or for the internal use of lawyers. Further, at the discretion of the responsible partner for the project in question, we may destroy any such documentation which is the property of Bracewell or any documentation which such partner determines to be duplicative or unnecessary in all cases without having to obtain your consent.

## Choice of Law

Because Bracewell performs legal services in a number of jurisdictions, for consistency and predictability, the Client and Bracewell agree that the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct (found at <a href="https://www.texasbar.com">www.texasbar.com</a> or <a href="h

# Disclaimer

We cannot guarantee the outcome of any matter. Any expression of our professional judgment regarding your matter or the potential outcome is, of course, limited by our knowledge of the facts and based on the law at the time of expression. It is also subject to any unknown or uncertain factors or conditions beyond our control.

Either at the commencement or during the course of the representation, we may express opinions or beliefs about the matter or various courses of action and the results that might be anticipated. Any expressions on our part concerning the outcome of the representation, or any other legal matters, are based on our professional judgment and are not guarantees.

By signing the Engagement Letter or otherwise indicating your acceptance of the Engagement Letter, you acknowledge that Bracewell has made no promises or guarantees to you about the outcome of the representation, and nothing in these Terms of Engagement shall be construed as such a promise or guarantee.

# Your Cooperation

To enable us to provide effective representation, you agree to: (1) disclose to us fully, accurately and on a timely basis, all facts and documents that are or might be material or that we may request; (2) keep us apprised on a timely basis of all developments relating to the representation that are or might be material; (3) attend meetings, conferences, and other proceedings when it is reasonable to do so; (4) provide updated information for conflicts purposes, if necessary; and (5) cooperate fully with us in all matters relating to the engagement.

# Modification of Our Agreement

The Terms of Engagement reflect our agreement on the terms of all engagements, and are not subject to any oral agreements, modifications, or understandings. Any change in these Terms of Engagement must be made in writing signed by both Bracewell and Client.

# In Conclusion

If you have questions or concerns, at any time, relating to the terms and conditions of this engagement, the services or advice provided by Bracewell, or the fees and expenses reflected in the invoices, please bring them to the attention of your principal contact at our firm, or Bracewell's General Counsel or Managing Partner.