

**SUBMITTAL TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

903



FROM: Executive Office

SUBMITTAL DATE:
June 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Indigent Defense Contracts for FY 2005-06

RECOMMENDED MOTION: That the Board of Supervisors renew the attached contracts with four attorney groups for the provision of indigent defense attorney services in Fiscal Year 2005-06.

BACKGROUND: Defense attorneys from the private sector are appointed by the Court when the Public Defender's Office has a conflict of interest, such as in multiple defendant cases. While the Court sometimes appoints individual attorneys, it has proven to be more reliable and cost effective to contract with attorney groups for these services. The current contracts, for representation of indigents in criminal, juvenile, and probate cases, were awarded after a careful and thorough bid process in 2002. The initial contracts have been renewed once. A competitive bidding process is planned for the Spring of 2006.

The attorney groups under contract are Criminal Defense Lawyers, Juvenile Defense Panel, Barbara M. Brand Esq., and Sam G. Vanderbrug.

(continued)

Kathryn Field, Principal Management Analyst

FINANCIAL DATA	Current F.Y. Total Cost:	\$7,988,160	In New Year Budget:	yes
	Current F.Y. Net County Cost:	\$7,988,160	Budget Adjustment:	no
	Annual Net County Cost:	\$0	For Fiscal Year:	n/a

SOURCE OF FUNDS: Indigent Defense Budget – General Fund	Positions To Be Deleted Per A-30	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Requires 4/5 Vote	<input type="checkbox"/>

C.E.O. RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE

County Executive Office Signature

Dept't Recomm.: Consent Policy
Per Exec. Ofc.: Consent Policy

Prev. Agn. Ref.: 3.8 of 7/13/04 | District: ALL | Agenda Number:

**ATTACHMENTS FILED
WITH THE CLERK OF THE BOARD**

3.3

Background, continued

The three contracts total \$7,235,760 in legal fees and up to \$752,400 in investigative and other expenses (actual investigative expenses are likely to be considerably less). Overall, attorney fees have risen 7% in the past 33 months, primarily due to an increase in the number of cases handled.

These contracts were finalized after preparation of the Proposed Budget, so the additional cost of \$443,540 was not included. Knowing that a legal fee increase was likely, however, the additional expense was mentioned in budget hearings and will be incorporated into the Final Budget document.

County Counsel prepared the attached contracts, in conformance with County standards.