



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

March 23, 2018

Re: REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LEGAL REPRESENTATION IN OPIOID-RELATED LITIGATION

To Whom it May Concern:

I write at the direction of the Yakama Nation Tribal Council to announce this Request for Proposals (“RFP”) to represent the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation (“Yakama Nation”) in opioid-related litigation against opioid manufacturers and distributors. The purpose of the litigation is to stop the public health and safety hazards within Yakama Indian Country caused by the opioid epidemic, abate the nuisance caused thereby, and recover funds expended in response to the harms caused by the opioid industry’s practices.

All qualifying proposals must be signed by an authorized representative of your Firm, and include the following information:

- Profile of your Firm or Consortium of Firms, including statement of Indian Ownership;
- Firm experience working on behalf of Indian Country;
- Firm experience working with the Yakama Nation;
- Firm experience litigating healthcare and/or pharmaceutical-related lawsuits;
- Overview of proposed litigation team, with resumes for each team member;
- Proposed fee arrangement and cost estimate;
- Statement on current workload, and firm’s resulting ability to dedicate adequate time to representing the Yakama Nation’s interests;
- Overview of the current status of opioid-related litigation by Original Nations;
- Proposed litigation strategy, detailing the pros and cons of engaging in this litigation; and
- Disclosure of potential conflicts of interest.

The Yakama Nation is an Indian Preference employer. Your firm is solely responsible for all costs incurred in relation to your response to this RFP. The selected firm will be required to execute an attorney contract that expressly reserves the Yakama Nation’s sovereign immunity. The attorney contract will be governed by Yakama law, and any disputes arising therefrom will be resolved in Yakama Nation Tribal Court. The selected firm will be required to submit to Yakama Nation Tribal Court jurisdiction for such purposes. The Yakama Nation reserves the right to award or reject any proposal for any reason, or re-solicit for further proposals, as may be necessary to serve the Yakama Nation’s best interest.

Please electronically submit your proposal in .pdf format to marcus@yakamanation-olc.org by 5:00 pm on April 6, 2018. In the meantime, if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Yakama Nation Office of Legal Counsel at (509) 865-7268.



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By submitting a proposal in response to this Request for Proposal, your Firm understands and agrees that the Yakama Nation does not waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our sovereign immunity, whether expressed or implied, by virtue of this Request for Proposal; nor does the Yakama Nation waive, alter, or otherwise diminish our rights, privileges, remedies or services guaranteed by the Treaty of 1855.

Respectfully,

MARCUS SHIRZAD, INTERIM LEAD ATTORNEY
YAKAMA NATION OFFICE OF LEGAL COUNSEL