

Firm Name

Firm Address 1

Firm Address 2

Firm State

Firm Zip Code

Firm Contact Number

Date Today

**ATTORNEY-CLIENT FEE
AGREEMENT**

Firm Name (“Attorney”) and Client Name (“Client”) hereby agree that Attorney will provide legal services to Client on the terms set forth below.

1. CONDITIONS

This Agreement will not take effect, and Attorney will have no obligation to provide legal services, until: (a) Client returns a signed copy of this Agreement; (b) Client pays the initial deposit (if not hourly) for costs, if any, called for under Paragraph 4; and (c) Attorney acknowledges acceptance of representation by counter-signing this Agreement and returning a fully executed copy to Client. Upon satisfaction of these conditions, this Agreement will be deemed to take effect as of Agreement Date .

2. SCOPE OF SERVICES AND ATTORNEY’S DUTIES

Client hires Attorney to provide legal services in the following matter: Client Legal Services

Attorney will provide those legal services reasonably required to represent Client. Attorney will take reasonable steps to keep Client informed of progress and to respond to Client’s inquiries. If a court action is filed, Attorney will represent Client through trial and post-trial motions. This Agreement does not cover representation on appeal or in collection proceedings after judgment or proceedings regarding renewal of a judgment. A separate written agreement for these services or services in any other matter not described above will be required. Attorney is representing Client only in the matter described above.

This Agreement also does not include defending Client against, or representing Client in, any claims that may be asserted against Client as a cross-claim or counter-claim in Client’s case. If any such matters arise later, Attorney and Client will either negotiate a separate agreement if Client and Attorney agree that the Attorney will perform such additional legal work or Client will engage separate counsel with respect to the cross-claim or counter-claim or additional legal work.

3. CLIENT’S DUTIES

Client agrees to be truthful with Attorney and not withhold information. Further Client agrees to cooperate, to keep Attorney informed of any information or developments which may come to Client's attention, to abide by this Agreement, to pay Attorney's bills on time, and to keep Attorney advised of Client's address, telephone number and whereabouts. Client will assist Attorney by timely providing necessary information and documents. Client agrees to appear at all legal proceedings when Attorney deems it necessary, and generally to cooperate fully with Attorney in all matters related to the preparation and presentation of Client's claims.

4. DEPOSIT

(If Hourly)

Client agrees to pay Attorney an initial deposit of \$____ by Deposit Date which will be deemed an advance deposit for fees and costs to be incurred in this matter. The hourly charges and costs will be charged against the Deposit. The initial Deposit, as well as any future deposits, will be held in Attorney's Client Trust Account. Client authorizes Attorney to use that deposit to pay the fees and other charges. Client acknowledges that the deposit is not an estimate of total fees and costs to be charged by Attorney, but merely an advance.

Client agrees that Attorney's right to recover fees and costs from the Deposit or any subsequent deposit held in Attorney's Client Trust Account becomes fixed - ____ days after the date a bill is sent to Client. Client authorizes Attorney to withdraw the funds from Attorney's Client Trust Account to pay Attorney's fees and costs ____ calendar days after the date a bill is sent to Client. If Attorney receives a written objection from Client within ____ days of sending the bill, Attorney's right to withdraw the amount that is identified in the objection shall be deemed to be disputed, and Attorney will not withdraw the disputed fees and/or costs from the Client Trust Account until the dispute is resolved. If Attorney receives an objection from Client more than ____ days after the date the bill is sent and after the funds have been withdrawn, Attorney will not be required to redeposit the disputed fees and/or costs into the Client Trust Account during the pendency of the dispute.

Client agrees to pay all deposits after the initial deposit within ____ days of Attorney's demand. In the event there is any money from any deposit remaining in Attorney's Client Trust Account after Attorney's final bill is satisfied, that money will be promptly refunded to Client.

Whenever the deposit is exhausted, Attorney reserves the right to demand further deposits, each up to a maximum of \$____ at any time before a trial or arbitration date is set. Once a trial or arbitration date is set, Client will pay all sums then owing and deposit the Attorney's fees estimated to be incurred in preparing for and completing the trial or arbitration, as well as the jury fees or arbitration fees, expert witness fees and other costs likely to be assessed. Those sums may exceed the maximum deposit

Client agrees to pay Attorney an initial deposit for costs of \$____, to be returned with this signed Agreement. Attorney will hold this initial deposit in a

trust account. Client hereby authorizes Attorney to use that deposit to pay the costs, disbursements and other expenses incurred under this Agreement.

Client agrees that Attorney's right to recover costs and expenses from the Deposit or any subsequent deposit held in Attorney's Client Trust Account becomes fixed ___ days after the date a bill is sent to Client. Client therefore authorizes Attorney to withdraw the funds from Attorney's Client Trust Account to pay Attorney's costs and expenses ___ calendar days after the date a bill is sent to Client. If Attorney receives a written objection from Client within ___ days of sending the bill, Attorney's right to recover the amount that is identified in the objection will be deemed to be disputed, and Attorney will not withdraw the disputed costs and/or expenses from the Client Trust Account until the dispute is resolved. If Attorney receives an objection from Client more than ___ days after the date the bill is sent and after the funds have been withdrawn, Attorney will not be required to redeposit the disputed costs and/or expenses into the Client Trust Account during the pendency of the dispute.

When Client's deposit is exhausted, Attorney reserves the right to demand further deposits, each up to a maximum of \$_____.

Once a trial or arbitration date is set, Attorney will require Client to pay all sums then owing, and to deposit the costs Attorney estimates will be incurred in preparing for and completing the trial or arbitration, as well as the jury fees or arbitration fees likely to be assessed. Those sums may exceed the maximum deposit.

Client agrees to pay all deposits required under this Agreement within ___ days of Attorney's demand. Any deposit that is unused at the conclusion of Attorney's services will be promptly refunded to Client.

5. LEGAL FEES AND BILLING PRACTICES

Client agrees to pay by the hour at Attorney's rates as set forth below for all time spent on Client's matter by Attorney and Attorney's legal personnel. Current hourly rates for legal personnel are as follows:

Senior Partner	\$_____	per hour
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Partner	\$_____	per hour
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Associate	\$_____	per hour
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Paralegal	\$_____	per hour
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Law Clerk	\$ _____	per hour
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No rates have been specified.

The rates on this schedule are subject to change on 30 days written notice to Client. If Client declines to pay increased rates, Attorney will have the right to withdraw as attorney for Client if permitted under the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California and/or applicable law.

The time charged will include, but is not limited to, the time Attorney spends on telephone calls, e-mails and other electronic communications relating to Client's matter, including calls and e-mails with Client, witnesses, opposing counsel, court personnel or other persons. The legal personnel assigned to Client's matter may confer among themselves about the matter, as required and appropriate. When they do confer, each person will charge for the time expended, as long as the work done is reasonably necessary and not duplicative. Likewise, if more than one of the legal personnel attends a meeting, court hearing or other proceeding, each will charge for the time spent. Time is billed in minimum increments one-tenth (.1) of an hour. Attorney will charge for waiting, in court and elsewhere, and for travel time, both local and out of town.

Attorney will only be compensated for legal services rendered if a recovery is obtained for Client. If no recovery is obtained, Client will be obligated to pay only for costs, disbursements and expenses, as described in Paragraph 7.

The fee to be paid to Attorney will be a percentage of the "net recovery," depending on the stage at which the settlement or judgment is reached. The term "net recovery" means: (1) the total of all amounts received by settlement, arbitration award or judgment, including any award of attorney's fees, (2) minus all costs and disbursements set forth in Paragraph 7. If another party is ordered by the court to pay Client's Attorney's fees and/or costs, that award will be part of Client's net recovery and the contingent fee will be based on the Client's total recovery, including the amount of the court ordered award of attorney's fees and/or costs. Net recovery will also include the reasonable value of any non-monetary proceeds.

Attorney's fee will be calculated as follows:

- (a) If the matter is resolved before filing a lawsuit or formal initiation of proceedings, then Attorney's fee will be ____% of the net recovery;
- (b) If the matter is resolved prior to ____ days before the initial trial or arbitration date, then Attorney's fee will be ____% of the net recovery; and
- (c) If the matter is resolved after the times set forth in (i) and (ii), above, then Attorney's fee will be ____% of the net recovery.

(d) In the event of Attorney's discharge, or withdrawal with justifiable cause, as provided in Paragraph 12, Client agrees that, upon payment of the settlement, arbitration award or judgment in Client's favor in this matter, Attorney will be entitled to be paid by Client a reasonable fee for the legal services provided. Such fee will be determined by considering the following factors:

- (1) Whether the Attorney engaged in fraud or overreaching in negotiating or setting the fee;
- (2) Whether the Attorney failed to disclose material facts;
- (3) The amount of the fee in proportion to the value of the services performed;
- (4) The relative sophistication of the Attorney and the Client;
- (5) The novelty and difficulty of the questions involved and the skill requisite to perform the legal service properly;
- (6) The likelihood, if apparent to the Client, that the acceptance of the particular employment will preclude other employment by the Attorney;
- (7) The amount involved and the results obtained;
- (8) The time limitations imposed by the Client or by the circumstances;
- (9) The nature and length of the professional relationship with the Client;
- (10) The experience, reputation, and ability of the Attorney;
- (11) Whether the fee is fixed or contingent;
- (12) The time and labor required;
- (13) The informed consent of the Client to the fee.

6. NEGOTIABILITY OF LEGAL FEES

Client understands that the rates set forth above are not set by law, but are negotiable between Attorney and Client.

7. COSTS AND OTHER CHARGES

(a) Attorney will incur various costs and expenses in performing legal services under this Agreement. Client agrees to pay for all costs, disbursements and expenses in addition to the hourly fees. The costs and expenses commonly include, service of process charges, filing fees, court and deposition reporters' fees, translator/interpreter fees, jury fees, notary fees, deposition costs, long distance telephone charges, messenger and other delivery fees, postage, outside photocopying and other reproduction costs, travel costs including parking, mileage, transportation, meals and hotel costs, investigation expenses, consultants' fees, expert witness, professional, mediator, arbitrator

and/or special master fees notary fees, long distance telephone charges, messenger and other delivery fees, postage, outside photocopying and other reproduction costs, travel costs including parking, mileage, transportation, meals and hotel costs, investigation expenses, translator/interpreter fees, consultants' fees and/or special master fees and other similar items. The foregoing external costs and expenses will be charged at Attorney's cost. Internal charges are billed at the following rates: (1) mileage – IRS Standard Mileage Rate; (2) in-house printing and photocopying – \$0.____ cents per page; (3) facsimile charges – \$0. ____cents per page (4) messenger services – at cost; (5) postage at cost; and (6) computerized legal research at cost{% else %}(4) postage at cost; and (5) computerized legal research at cost.

(b) Out-of-town travel. Client agrees to pay transportation, meals, lodging and all other costs of any necessary out-of-town travel by Attorney and Attorney's personnel. Client will also be charged ____% of the hourly rates for the time legal personnel spend traveling.

(c) Experts, Consultants and Investigators. To aid in the preparation or presentation of Client's case, it may become necessary to hire expert witnesses, consultants or investigators. Client agrees to pay such fees and charges. Attorney will select any expert witnesses, consultants or investigators to be hired, and Client will be informed of persons chosen and their charges.

(d) Attorney will obtain Client's consent before incurring any costs in excess of \$____.

Client's Responsibility for Prevailing Party or Court Ordered Fees and Costs to Other Party

Client understands that if Client's case proceeds to court action or arbitration and Client loses or is not the prevailing party, the court may award Attorney fees as well as some or all of the type of costs enumerated in this Paragraph 7 to the winning or prevailing party or parties. Payment of such attorney fees and costs will be the sole responsibility of Client.

If an award of fees and/or costs to be paid by another party is sought on Client's behalf in this action, Client understands that the amount which the court may order as fees and/or costs is the amount the court believes the party is entitled to recover, and does not determine what fees and/or costs Attorney is entitled to charge Client or that only the fees and/or costs which were allowed were reasonable.

Allocation of Court Award for Statutory or Contract Fees and Costs

Client agrees that any award of fees and costs that may be awarded pursuant to contract or statute will belong exclusively to Attorney. Client further agrees that, whether or not attorney's fees or costs are awarded by the court in Client's case, if there is a recovery other than an award of fees and costs pursuant to contract

or statute Client will remain responsible for the payment, in full, of the attorney's fees and costs in accordance with this Agreement.

However, any payment of court-awarded fees and/or costs by a third party will be credited against the amount of fees and/or costs owed by Client under this Agreement. Therefore, Client agrees that the attorney's fees and costs payable to Attorney pursuant to this Agreement shall be the greater of: (i) the amount otherwise owed to Attorney under this Agreement if the award of attorney's fees and costs were disregarded; or (ii) the amount of the court ordered award of attorney's fees and costs.

Responsibility For and Allocation Of Sanctions

Client agrees that any award of fees and costs that may be awarded as discovery or other sanctions shall not be considered part of the Client's recovery and shall belong exclusively to Attorney as additional compensation for extraordinary time and effort.

The court may assess monetary sanctions, (including attorney fees and costs) against Client for bad faith conduct, including of discovery proceedings prior to trial, or inappropriate conduct during or even after trial. Any such award will be entirely the responsibility of Client.

8. OTHER FEES AND COSTS

Client understands that if Client's case proceeds to court action or arbitration, the court may award attorney fees as well as some or all of the type of costs enumerated in Paragraph 7 above to the other party or parties. Payment of such attorney fees and costs shall be the sole responsibility of Client. Similarly, other parties may be required to pay some or all of the fees and costs incurred by the Client. Client acknowledges that any such determination does not in and of itself affect the amount of the fees and costs to be paid by Client to Attorney pursuant to this agreement.

9. BILLS

Attorney will send Client periodic bills for fees and costs incurred. Each bill will be payable within ___ days of its mailing date. Client may request a bill at intervals of no less than 30 days. If Client so requests, Attorney will provide one within 10 days. Bills for the fee portion of the bill will include the amount, rate, basis for calculation, or other method of determination of the Attorney's fees. Bills for the cost and expense portion of the bill will clearly identify the costs and expenses incurred and the amount of the costs and expenses. Client agrees to promptly review all bills rendered by Attorney and to promptly communicate any objections, questions, or concerns about their contents.

10. CLIENT APPROVAL NECESSARY FOR SETTLEMENT

Attorney will not make any settlement or compromise of any nature of any of Client's claims without Client's prior approval. Client retains the absolute right to accept or reject any settlement.

11. LIEN

Attorney has a lien on any and all claims that are the subject of Attorney's representation under this Agreement. Attorney's lien will be for any sums owing to Attorney for any unpaid costs, or attorney's fees, at the conclusion of Attorney's services. The lien will attach to any recovery Client may obtain, whether by arbitration award, judgment, settlement or otherwise. An effect of such a lien is that Attorney may be able to compel payment of fees and costs from any such funds recovered on behalf of Client even if Attorney has been discharged before the end of the case. In the event Attorney withdraws from representing Client without cause, Attorney will not be entitled to any lien for fees. The lien will exist and attach to any recovery only for costs already advanced by Attorney pursuant to Paragraph 7. Because a lien may affect Client's property rights, Client may seek the advice of an independent lawyer of Client's own choice before agreeing to such a lien. By initialing this paragraph, Client represents and agrees that Client has had a reasonable opportunity to consult such an independent lawyer and—whether or not Client has chosen to consult such an independent lawyer—Client agrees that Attorney will have a lien as specified above.

_____ (Client initials here) _____ (Attorney initials here)

12. DISCHARGE AND WITHDRAWAL

Client may discharge Attorney at any time. Attorney may withdraw with Client's consent or for good cause or if permitted under the Rules of Professional Conduct of the State Bar of California and/or applicable law. Among the circumstances under which Attorney may withdraw are: (a) with the consent of Client; (b) Client's conduct renders it unreasonably difficult for the Attorney to carry out the employment effectively; and/or (c) Client fails to pay Attorney's fees or costs as required by this Agreement. Notwithstanding the discharge, Client will remain obligated to pay Attorney at the agreed rates for all services provided and to reimburse Attorney for all costs advanced.

Notwithstanding Client's notice of discharge, and without regard to the reasons for the withdrawal or discharge, Client will remain obligated to pay Attorney for all costs and expenses incurred prior to the termination and, in the event that there is any net recovery obtained by Client after conclusion of Attorney's services, Client remains obligated to pay Attorney for the reasonable value of all services rendered from the effective date of this Agreement to the date of discharge. In the event Attorney voluntarily withdraws from representing Client without cause, Attorney waives, and will not be entitled to be paid, any fees by Client but will be entitled to be reimbursed for any costs and expenses already advanced by Attorney.

13. CONCLUSION OF SERVICES

When Attorney's services conclude, whether by completing the services covered by this Agreement, or by discharge or withdrawal, all unpaid charges for fees or costs will be due and payable immediately.

Client may have access to Client's case file at Attorney's office at any reasonable time. At the end of the engagement, Client may request the return of Client's case file. If Client has not requested the return of Client's file, and to the extent

Attorney has not otherwise delivered it or disposed of it consistent with Client's directions, Attorney will retain the case file for a period of ____ days after which Attorney is authorized by this agreement to have the case file destroyed. If Client would like Attorney to maintain Client's case file for more than ____ days after the conclusion of Attorney's services for Client on a given matter, a separate written agreement must be made between Attorney and Client, which may provide for Client to bear the cost of maintaining the file. In the event Client requests that Attorney transfer possession of Client's case file to Client or a third party, Attorney is authorized to retain copies of the case file at Attorney's expense. The case file includes Client papers and property as defined in Rule 3-700(D)(1) of the California Rules of Professional Conduct.

14. RECEIPT OF PROCEEDS

All proceeds of Client's case will be deposited into Attorney's trust account for disbursement in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement.

15. DISCLAIMER OF GUARANTEE AND ESTIMATES

Nothing in this Agreement and nothing in Attorney's statements to Client will be construed as a promise or guarantee about the outcome of the matter. Attorney makes no such promises or guarantees. Attorney's comments about the outcome of the matter are expressions of opinion only, are neither promises nor guarantees, and will not be construed as promises or guarantees. Any deposits made by Client, or estimate of fees given by Attorney, are not a representation of a flat fee and will not be a limitation on fees or a guarantee that fees and costs will not exceed the amount of the deposit or estimate. Actual fees may vary significantly from estimates given.

16. PROFESSIONAL LIABILITY INSURANCE DISCLOSURE

Pursuant to California Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4.2(a), I am informing you in writing that I have/do not have professional liability insurance.

17. NO TAX ADVICE

Attorney has not been retained to provide Client with any tax advice concerning any of the services described in Paragraph 2. Any documents prepared by Attorney may have specific tax ramifications. To be sure Client understands and is certain of all the potential tax consequences, Client should consult with tax advisors regarding these matters.

18. ENTIRE AGREEMENT

This Agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties. No other agreement, statement, or promise made on or before the effective date of this Agreement will be binding on the parties.

19. SEVERABILITY IN EVENT OF PARTIAL INVALIDITY

If any provision of this Agreement is held in whole or in part to be unenforceable for any reason, the remainder of that provision and of the entire Agreement will be severable and remain in effect.

20. MODIFICATION BY SUBSEQUENT AGREEMENT

This Agreement may be modified by subsequent agreement of the parties only by an instrument in writing signed by both of them.

21. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Agreement will govern all legal services performed by Attorney on behalf of Client commencing with the date Attorney first performed services. The date at the beginning of this Agreement is for reference only. Even if this Agreement does not take effect, Client will be obligated to pay Attorney the reasonable value of any services Attorney may have performed for Client.

THE PARTIES HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THE FOREGOING TERMS AND AGREE TO THEM AS OF THE DATE ATTORNEY FIRST PROVIDED SERVICES. IF MORE THAN ONE CLIENT SIGNS BELOW, EACH AGREES TO BE LIABLE, JOINTLY AND SEVERALLY, FOR ALL OBLIGATIONS UNDER THIS AGREEMENT. CLIENT WILL RECEIVE A FULLY EXECUTED COPY OF THIS AGREEMENT.

DATED: _____

CLIENT

Address: Client Address 1
 Client Address 2
 Client Town
 Client Zip Code

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

DATED: _____

ATTORNEY OR LAW FIRM

By:

ATTORNEY