

## AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE LEGAL SERVICES

**THIS AGREEMENT**, dated July 1, 2024, is made between **MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION**, whose principal address is 834 Leonardville Road Leonardo, New Jersey 07737 ("client"), and **BRUCE W. PADULA, ESQ. OF CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI JACOBS, LLC**, its successors and assigns, whose address is 955 Route 34, Suite 200 Matawan NJ 07747 ("Law Firm").

1. Legal Services to be provided: You agree that this Law Firm will represent you as follows:

To perform any and all legal services regarding general and negotiations and/or interest arbitration, personnel and other labor relations matters and represent the Client, its agencies, departments, and sub-divisions, in any other matters. This includes, but is not limited to, State, Federal and administrative matters, legal opinions, review of contracts, research and consultation, etc.

The legal work includes all necessary Court appearances, research investigation, correspondence, preparation and drafting of pleadings and other legal documents, trial preparation, conferences in person and by telephone with the Client and with others, and related work to properly represent the Client in any such manner.

2. Legal Fees: The Law Firm cannot predict or guarantee what your final bill will be. This will depend on the time spent on your case and the amount of other expenses.

A. Hourly Rate. You agree to pay the Law Firm for legal services at the following rates:

| <u>Rate Per Hour</u> | <u>Services of</u>            |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| \$185                | All Attorneys                 |
| \$100                | All Law Clerks and Paralegals |

B. All Service Will Be Billed: You will be billed at the hourly rates set forth in Paragraph 2A for all services rendered. This includes telephone calls, dictating and reviewing correspondence, travel to and from meetings and Court, legal research, negotiations and any other service relating to the subject matter of this Contract (minimum charge for 18 minutes.) Fees accrue for attendant at meetings. Legal Fees will be charged portal to portal.

3. Costs and Expenses: In addition to legal fees, the Client will pay the following costs and expenses:

Experts' fees, court costs, accountants' fees, appraisers' fees, service fees, investigator fees, deposition costs, messenger services (prevailing market rates), photocopying charges (\$.20 per copy), postage, interpreter/translators' fee (prevailing market rates), travel expenses (IRS rate per miles and tolls.)

The Law Firm may require that expert(s) be retained directly by you. You would then be solely

responsible to pay the expert(s).

4. Bills: The Law Firm will send you itemized progress bills from time to time, which are payable at the Client's regular monthly meeting. The Law Firm may require that some costs and expenses (See Paragraph 3) be paid in advance. All other bills for costs and legal expenses are due upon receipt.

5. Your Responsibility. You must fully cooperate with the Law Firm and provide all information relevant to the issue involved in this matter. You must also pay all bills as required by this Agreement. If you do not comply with these requirements, the Law Firm may withdraw from representing you or ask the Court for permission to do so.

6. No Guarantee. The Law Firm agrees to provide conscientious, competent and diligent services and at all times will seek to achieve solutions which are just and reasonable for you. However, because of the uncertainty of legal proceedings, the interpretation and changes in the law and many unknown factors, attorneys cannot and do not warrant, predict or guarantee results or the final outcome of any case.

7. Trust Money. Any money received by this Firm to be placed in our Trust Account will be placed in a non-interest bearing account unless specific written arrangements are made to the contrary.

8. Signatures. The Law Firm and Client have read and agree to this Agreement. The Law Firm has answered all of your questions and fully explained this Agreement to your complete satisfaction. You have been given a copy of this Agreement.

9. Duration. This Contract shall take effect on July 1, 2024 and continue until June 31, 2025. It may be cancelled on written notice by either party to the other.

10. Attorney shall comply with the requirements of P.L. 1975 C. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) regarding Affirmative Action and Executive Order 11246 regarding Equal Employment Opportunity, as amended.

**CLEARY GIACOBBE ALFIERI JACOBS,  
LLC**



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BRUCE W. PADULA

**MIDDLETOWN TOWNSHIP BOARD OF  
EDUCATION**



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FRANK CAPONE, Board President