

CONTRACT FOR REPORTING SERVICE

This contract is entered into this **12th** day of **August, 1996**, by and between Nassau County Board of County Commissioners, hereafter called "County"; the Administrative Judge, in and for Nassau County, of the Fourth Judicial Circuit of Florida, hereafter called "Court", and **Bill Hazes, Bill Hazes Court Reporting**, hereafter called "Reporter".

W I T N E S S E T H:

WHEREAS, the Court in compliance with mandates of the Florida Supreme Court in case number 85.055, dated February 23, 1995, developed a plan for the delivery of court reporting services which are required to be provided at public expense; and

WHEREAS, the Court determined that the Reporter performing those services would be an independent contractor as opposed to an employee;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the covenants and provision set forth in this agreement to be kept and performed by each party, it is agreed as follows:

1. TERM OF CONTRACT:

This contract shall commence on **August 12, 1996**, and shall terminate on **September 22, 1996**.

2. SCOPE OF SERVICE:

The Reporter shall furnish court reporting services to the Circuit and County Courts of Nassau County, Florida, including but not limited to the following areas:

- a. Circuit, Criminal, Felony Courts;
- b. Juvenile Courts;
- c. Jury Trials for County Criminal Courts;
- d. State Attorney, Public Defender, and Court Appointed Attorney Depositions;
- e. State Attorney Sworn Statements;
- f. County Court Evidentiary Hearings;
- g. Transcription of Electronically Recorded Proceedings;
- h. Transcription Services on an as-required basis;
- i. First Appearance Proceedings;
- j. Grand Jury Proceedings;
- k. Other proceedings as directed by the Judiciary.

The above proceedings may include, but are not necessarily limited to: Chamber Hearings, Non-Jury Trials, Depositions, Sworn Statements, Arraignments, Dispositions, Motion Hearings, and all other matters related to the Court as required. The Chief Judge may designate any judicial proceeding to be electronically recorded.

3. NON-EXCLUSIVE SERVICES:

The Reporter shall be free to provide court reporting services to other private and public entities. The Reporter shall not be restricted in the use of initiative, skill, and judgment in operating a court reporting business.

4. MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR REPORTERS:

All individual reporters who are to perform the reporting services required by this contract shall have not less than the minimum qualifications specified in Administrative Order No. 95-13, paragraph 3, dated August 10, 1995, a copy of which is attached as "Exhibit A" and incorporated herein by this reference. Provided, however, active "RPR" and "CVR" certification requirements are waived until August 10, 1997.

5. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND RULES:

a. All reporting services shall be provided in a manner that complies with Nassau County ordinances, state and federal tax and employment laws, including the Fair Labor Standards Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and the Federal Civil Rights Act.

b. The Reporter shall be solely responsible for income taxes, FICA, and any other withholdings from its employees' and subcontractors' compensation.

c. The Reporter and the Court shall each comply with the provisions of Rule 2.070 of the Florida Rules of Judicial Administration which pertains to Court Reporting requirements, and with any subsequent amendments to that rule. Rule 2.070 is incorporated into this contract by this reference. Services performed shall also be consistent with Chapter 29 of the Florida Statutes.

6. NON-COMPLIANCE:

If the Reporter fails to provide accurate transcripts in the agreed upon time frame, fails to timely provide court reporters at all judicial proceedings contemplated by this contract, or fails to comply with its obligations in the contract, such failures may result in any or all of the following:

- a. Reduction in whole or in part of the amount owed for a service performed by the Reporter;
- b. Other Court sanctions.

"Accurate transcripts" are defined as those with not more than one error per ten pages excluding proper nouns.

"Timely" providing a court reporter means that the reporter will be present prior to the scheduled starting time of the proceeding.

7. RECORDS STORAGE:

The Clerk of the Circuit and County Court maintains all records for the courts in Nassau County. The Reporter is responsible for ensuring compliance with the State of Florida's records retention schedule and procedures, the Rules of Judicial Administration and any local requirement published by the Chief Judge. All records shall be maintained in Nassau County, Florida. The Court and the Reporter agree that the Reporter shall maintain a box in this office for each court reporter to use as a drop-off for paper tapes, audio tapes and/or diskettes. The paper tapes, audio tapes and/or diskettes will be dropped off in a timely manner. No court reporting invoices will be processed for payment until these items are in the possession of the court and have been verified by the Clerk's staff. Each set of notes, tapes and/or diskettes must have attached a calendar or document with the case numbers, defendant names and dates that correspond with the invoices.

8. FACILITIES, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT:

With the exception of the duplicator/reformator, the office space for work or storage of supplies, the Court's premises are not to be used for reporting services outside the scope of this contract.

9. MISCELLANEOUS REPORTING REQUIREMENTS:

a. The Reporter shall have the necessary equipment, supplies, and trained reporters to provide "real-time reporting" when requested by the Judiciary. Notwithstanding the foregoing sentence, the Court shall be responsible for providing all hardware and wiring for the use of the judiciary and jurors required to equip an individual courtroom for real-time reporting.

b. All reported proceedings must utilize an audio cassette tape as back-up. In addition, a disk shall be requested reasonably in advance of any proceeding and shall be provided if requested.

10. COMPENSATION SCHEDULE:

a. All parties to this contract agree that by law the County is obligated to pay the Reporter the contracted rate of compensation set forth herein. It is the duty of the court to determine what reporting services are required to meet the judicial needs.

b. The County agrees to pay per the established rates as follows:

- \$ 4.60 transcript appeal (0 and 2)
- \$ 3.00 court proceedings
\$.80 copy
- \$ 3.00 depositions, Public Defender, State Attorney and
\$.80 copy Court Appointed Attorneys
- \$ 3.00 sworn statements, Public Defender, State
\$.80 copy Attorney and Court Appointed
Attorneys
- \$50.00 per diem 8:00 - 12:00
- \$50.00 per diem 12:00 - 5:00 or any fraction thereof
- \$15.00 before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. per half hour
- \$95.00 per diem 8:00 - 12:00 weekend 1st appearance
court and city or state
holidays
- \$95.00 per diem 12:00 - 5:00 weekend 1st appearance
court and city or state
holidays
- \$95.00 per diem after hour pop call or weekend for State
Attorney, Public Defender and Jacksonville Sheriff's
Office
- Non-appearance per diem \$25.00
- \$ 3.00 per page original Electronic transcription
\$.80 per copy Electronic transcription
- \$50.00 per diem 8:00 - 12:00 grand jury
- \$50.00 per diem 12:00 - 5:00 grand jury
- \$15.00 per diem before 8:00 a.m. or after 5:00 p.m. per
half hour
- \$ 3.00 per page original Grand Jury
- \$.80 per page copy Grand Jury

Daily

- \$6.00 Original - \$1.60 Copy

Expedite

- \$ 4.50 Original - \$1.20 Copy

11. RECORDS OF SERVICES AND COSTS:

The Reporter will maintain original records and documents relevant to the direct costs incurred by the Reporter in the performance of its contractual services. The Court and its designee shall have the right to inspect or audit those records to determine the accuracy of charges made by Reporter for its services. Those records and documents shall be retained for at least 36 months after the date of invoice for services rendered.

12. ASSIGNMENTS:

This contract shall not be assigned without the prior written consent of the parties hereto.

13. TRANSCRIPTS FOR PROCEEDINGS PRIOR TO THIS AGREEMENT:

The Reporter shall provide any requested transcripts for proceedings taken prior to the commencement of this contract.

14. BILLING:

The Reporter shall submit invoices and receive payment from the County on a monthly basis. Invoices shall be submitted to the Public Defender, State Attorney or appropriate Judge for verification. The invoices will then be forwarded to the Clerk's Office for payment. All such invoices shall be accompanied by supporting documentation and other back-up materials as shall be reasonably required by the Chief Administrative Assistant to the Clerk. The Reporter shall notify the Clerk in writing of any subcontractors authorized under this contract by the Reporter. The subcontractor shall bill the County directly for services the Reporter has authorized. Both the Reporter and subcontractor shall sign said notice agreeing to the work and direct billing.

15. ENTIRETY OF CONTRACT:

This agreement contains the entire agreement of the parties and may not be amended, changed, or supplemented except by agreement in writing signed by all parties.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this contract, in duplicate, the day and year first above written.

WITNESSETH:

Joan M. Laggon

THE COUNTY:

By: Jim B. Higginbotham
Jim B. Higginbotham, Chairman
Nassau County Board of
County Commissioners

AS TO COUNTY

WITNESSETH:

Sara Brooks

THE COURT:

By: Bill Parsons
Bill Parsons, Administrative Judge
In And For Nassau County
Fourth Judicial Circuit

AS TO COURT

WITNESSETH:

Michael E. Smith
MICHAEL E. SMITH

BILL HAZES COURT REPORTING:

By: Bill Hazes 8/14/94
Bill Hazes, Owner

AS TO REPORTER