

**Lee County Board Of County Commissioners
Agenda Item Summary**

Blue Sheet No. 20060181

1. ACTION REQUESTED/PURPOSE: Authorize and approve utilization of the law firm of Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. (Tallahassee) by and through Sarah M. Bleakley, Esq. for specialized legal services on designated Bills before the Legislature for this Legislative Session as outlined in the attached proposed letter. Ms. Bleakley will continue to coordinate with and supplement the County's Lobbyist Team.

2. WHAT ACTION ACCOMPLISHES: A. Provides legal consulting services to the County for this Legislative Session for specific matters and Bills currently being developed and heard by Legislative Committees.
B. Enhances Lee County's legal presence in Tallahassee for this upcoming Legislative Session.

3. MANAGEMENT RECOMMENDATION: Approve engagement of Sarah M. Bleakley, Esq., of Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, P.A. for the 2006 Legislative Session.

4. Departmental Category: 12 **A12B** **5. Meeting Date:** 02-28-2006

6. Agenda:		7. Requirement/Purpose: (specify)		8. Request Initiated:	
<input type="checkbox"/> Consent		<input type="checkbox"/> Statute		Commissioner	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Administrative Appeals		<input type="checkbox"/> Ordinance		Department	County Attorney
		<input type="checkbox"/> Admin. Code		Division	
<input type="checkbox"/> Public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other		Letter of Engagement	By: David M. Owen	
<input type="checkbox"/> Walk-On				County Attorney <i>(Signature)</i>	

9. Background:
In past Legislative Sessions, Ms. Bleakley has assisted the County from the legal consulting perspective on certain, identified matters that required a Tallahassee legal presence in order to make Lee County's legal positions known on Bills being presented during the Legislative Session.

This Session appears to be no exception, and Ms. Bleakley's services are desired by the County Attorney and staff to enhance Lee County's legal presence in Tallahassee on certain matters.

The Nabors Giblin proposal letter of February 14, 2006 quotes a fixed fee of \$30,000.00 for their services for the duration of the 2006 Legislative Session. The Nabors Giblin legal services will be paid for by the County Attorney's Office.

(BACKGROUND CONTINUED - NEXT PAGE)

10. Review for Scheduling:

Department Director	Purchasing or Contracts	Human Resources	Other	County Attorney	Budget Services				County Manager/P.W. Director
				<i>(Signature)</i>	Analyst	Risk	Grants	Adm.	
				2/15/06	RK 2/15	2/15/06	2/15/06	2/15/06	<i>(Signature)</i>

11. Commission Action:

- Approved
- Deferred
- Denied
- Other

RECEIVED BY
COUNTY ADMIN:
2-15-06
103
COUNTY ADMIN
FORWARDED TO: <i>(Signature)</i>

CO. ATTY
FORWARDED
TO CO. ADMIN.
2/15/06

Background: (Continued)

Ms. Bleakley has been instructed to coordinate with our other Lobbyist Team members so that our legal and lobbying services will complimented and our Tallahassee presence enhanced.

As stated in her February 14, 2006 proposal letter, Ms. Bleakley will be monitoring legislative issues relating to impact fees, solid waste matters, ad valorem tax reform and charter county preemption. We may also ask her to assist with the Growth Management "Glitch" Bill(s) and other legal issues relating to infrastructure development and county government as they may arise during the 2006 Session.

TALLAHASSEE
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(850) 224-4070 Tel
(850) 224-4073 Fax

**Nabors
Giblin &
Nickerson** P.A.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

TAMPA
The Pointe, Suite 1060
2502 Rocky Point Drive
Tampa, Florida 33607
(813) 281-2222 Tel
(813) 281-0129 Fax

February 14, 2006

Via Facsimile and Overnight Delivery Service

David M. Owen
Lee County Attorney
2115 Second Street
6th Floor
Fort Myers, Florida 33901-3012

Dear David:

As you have requested, this letter presents a proposal for our firm to provide special legal consulting services to Lee County Board of County Commissioners for the 2006 Regular Session, and any extended or special session as may be deemed necessary.

It is our understanding that the County desires advice and special legal assistance on several local issues that are expected to be considered in the Legislature. To assist the County, we propose to provide the special legal consultant services as directed by you on issues of interest to the County including, but not limited to, impact fees, growth management, charter county preemption, solid waste, and ad valorem tax reform.

As to compensation for our services for the Regular Session and the time period for the Governor's consideration, which commences March 7, 2006, we suggest a flat fee of \$30,000, inclusive of expenses. The suggested flat fee is intended to cover the anticipated time required in addressing the multiplicity and legal complexity of the issues.

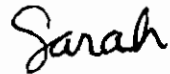
We propose to bill the County in four equal installments. The first will be mailed upon receiving Board approval of the terms for our services. The final three installments on the fifteenth of the succeeding months thereafter (April 15, May 15, and June 15).

It has been with great professional satisfaction that we have served Lee County through the provision of special legal consulting services in past Session. We anticipate that the challenge presented by the issues in the 2006 Session will prove equally rewarding.

David M. Owen
February 14, 2006
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If you have any questions about our proposal, please do not hesitate to call me at any time.

Sincerely,



Sarah M. Bleakley

SMB:sib