

## Request for Proposals Court Appointed Criminal Defense

### **I. Introduction**

Chippewa County seeks proposals, from qualified attorneys, for Court appointed criminal defense.

#### **A. Proposal submission**

To be considered, attorneys must submit a sealed response to this Request for Proposals. Requests for information or interpretation of the intent of the RFP and any/all other inquiries must be submitted in writing and addressed to:

Jim German, Administrator  
Chippewa County Courthouse  
319 Court Street  
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

**CONTACT WITH ANY OTHER CHIPPEWA COUNTY PERSONNEL REGARDING THIS RFP WILL BE CONSIDERED GROUNDS FOR ELIMINATION FROM THE SELECTION PROCESS.**

#### **B. Submittal requirements and deadline**

Each proposal must be submitted in writing, in a sealed envelop, plainly marked "RFP Criminal Defense" on the exterior. The attorney submitting the proposal must sign same. Stamped signatures or initials will not be considered. To be considered a valid response to this Request for Proposals, the proposal must remain valid for a minimum of sixty (60) days. Chippewa County is not liable for any cost incurred by the attorney prior to the issuance of a contract. Proposals must be received on or before noon (12:00 p.m.) on March 19, 2010 to be considered.

#### **C. Right of refusal**

Chippewa County reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, to negotiate separately with any source whatsoever, in any manner necessary to attend to the best interests of the County, to waive irregularities in any proposal and to accept a proposal which best meets the needs of the County, irrespective of the proposed rates and services.

#### **D. Disclosure of proposals**

Proposals are subject to disclosure under the Michigan Freedom

of Information Act (Act 442, P.A. 1976, as amended). After a contract award, a summary of total rate information for all proposals will be furnished upon request.

#### **E. Independent Rate Determination**

By submitting a proposal, you certify, and in the case of a joint proposal, each party certifies, that in connection with this proposal:

1. The rates in the proposal have been determined independently without consultation, communication, collusion, compact or agreement, for the purpose of restricting competition, as to any matter relating to such rates and services with any other proposing party or with any other competitor, excluding submissions which are joint between two (2) or more attorneys;

2. Unless otherwise required by law, the rates and services which have been quoted in the proposal have not been knowingly disclosed by the proposing party and will not knowingly be disclosed to any competitor; and

3. No attempt has been made or will be made by the proposing party to induce any other person or firm to submit a proposal for the purpose of restricting competition.

#### **F. Certification**

Each person signing the proposal certifies that he/she is the person responsible for the decision as to rates and services being quoted in the proposal, that he/she has not participated in, and will not participate in, any action contrary to paragraph E and all of its subparts as stated above.

If more than one (1) attorney is submitting a proposal (i.e.: joint proposal), each attorney to be bound by the rates and services quoted must sign and certify as indicated in the preceding paragraph.

## **II. Specifications**

Chippewa County seeks proposals for providing criminal defense services for those determined to qualify for Court appointed counsel. Criminal defense services must be comparable to those provided when counsel is retained.

**A.** Chippewa County is seeking three (3) attorneys to provide criminal defense services on Court appointed cases that may not be assigned to the Public Defender.

1. One attorney is needed for a combination of misdemeanors and felonies. The attorney should have at least two (2) years of experience practicing criminal defense, with some experience defending low severity felony charges.

2. One attorney is needed for felony cases, excluding capital cases. The attorney should have at least five (5) years experience defending low and high level felony charges.

3. One attorney is needed for felony cases, including capital cases. The attorney should have at least three (3) years of experience defending class A felonies.

### **III. Determination of best proposal**

A. Any contract resulting from this RFP will be entered into with the attorney or attorneys whose bid(s) are deemed to be most advantageous to the County. In making this determination, the Court will consider the following:

1. The level of experience and the ability and willingness of the attorney to provide the services required;

2. Whether the attorney can fulfill the contract and provide services promptly without delay;

3. The character, integrity, reputation, experience and efficiency of the attorney;

4. The quality of services the attorney has shown in dealings with the Court;

5. The ability of the attorney to appear in Court when scheduled;

6. The number and scope of the conditions attached to the proposal;

7. The ability of the attorney or attorneys to handle conflict of interest cases.

B. If all proposals received are reasonably equivalent other than with respect to rates, attorneys whose practices are located within Chippewa County will be given preference.

### **IV. Contract award**

Selection of an attorney or attorneys and awarding of contracts will be based upon evaluation by the judges of the 91st District and 50th Circuit Courts.