

January 29, 2026

**AMEND BOARD REPORT 25-1218-AR5**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 25-1023-AR3**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 25-0925-AR2**  
**AMEND BOARD REPORT 25-0626-AR3**

**AUTHORIZE CONTINUED RETENTION OF VARIOUS OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS**

**THE ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL REPORTS THE FOLLOWING DECISION:**

Continued retention of various outside counsel law firms for Fiscal Year 2026.

This January 2026 action amends #1 Hill Law Offices (Attachment B); #2 Burns Noland, LLP, #5 Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP, #10 Nielsen, Zehe & Antas, P.C. (Attachment E); Ice Miller, LLP (Attachment F); and Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC (Attachment G) to increase spending authority.

This December 2025 action amends Attachment E to increase spending authority for #1 Ancel Glink, P.C., #2 Burns Noland LLP, and adds #15 Esbrook, P.C. to Attachment E for new spending authority.

This October 2025 action amends Attachment D to increase spending authority for #12 Laner Muchin Ltd., and adds #8 Laner Muchin Ltd. to Attachment E for new spending authority.

This September 2025 amends #5 Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC (Attachment D) for additional spending authority and adding #9 Himes, Petrarca & Fester, Chtd to Attachment D.

**DESCRIPTION:** The Acting General Counsel has continued the retention of various outside counsel law firms (see attached list A-H of firms) to provide legal services to the Board in fiscal year 2026 for the following services: (A) continued retention of firms on a contingency fee basis to represent the Board in affirmative litigation; (B) continued retention of real estate firms to represent the Board in real estate related matters; (C) continued retention of firms to represent the Board in workers' compensation matters; (D) continued retention of firms to provide legal services to the Board on an hourly or flat fee basis, including, but not limited to the following legal services: representation in administrative hearings, consultative services, litigation defense, transactions, and such other matters as deemed appropriate by the Acting General Counsel; (E) continued retention of additional firms to provide legal services to the Board on an hourly or flat fee basis, including, but not limited to the following legal services: representation in administrative hearings, consultative services, litigation defense, transactions, and such other matters as deemed appropriate by the Acting General Counsel; (F) continued retention of firms to assist the Talent Office with legal advice related to immigration and employee benefits; (G) continued retention of Broadband Legal Services to provide legal advice to Information and Technology Services related to technology grant compliance; and (H) continued retention of firms to represent the Board in financial and bond related matters. The law firms and the not-to-exceed amounts authorized are set forth in Attachments A-H. As invoices are received, they will be reviewed by the Acting General Counsel and others, and if satisfactory, processed for payment.

**LSC REVIEW:** LSC approval is not applicable to this report.

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION STATUS:** None.

**FINANCIAL:** Charge: \$100,000.00 \$80,000.00 to **Department of Real Estate** – Cell Tower Installation Program  
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....11910-124-54125-253201-000388  
Charge: \$475,000.00 to **Department of Real Estate**  
Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....11910-230-54125-251148-000000  
Future year funding is contingent upon budget appropriations and approval. (**Attachment B**)

Charge \$221,000.00 to **Talent Office (Worker's Compensation)** - Professional Services (**Attachment C**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....12470-210

Charge \$713,000.00 to **Law Department** - Professional Services (**Attachment D**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....10210-115

Charge \$1,365,000.00 ~~\$1,015,000.00~~ to **Risk Management** - Professional Services (**Attachment E**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....12460-115-54125-261016-000000

Charge \$235,000.00 ~~\$215,000.00~~ to **Talent Office** - Professional Services (**Attachment F**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....11010-115-54125-264207-000000

Charge \$100,000.00 ~~\$75,000.00~~ to **Information and Technology Services** - Professional Services (**Attachment G**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....12510-115-54405-254501-000000

Charge TBD to **Finance** - Professional Services (**Attachment H**):  
 Budget Classification Fiscal Year 2026.....TBD

#### GENERAL CONDITIONS:

Inspector General – Each party to the agreement shall acknowledge that, in accordance with 105 ILCS 5/34-13.1, the Inspector General of the Chicago Board of Education has the authority to conduct certain investigations and that the Inspector General shall have access to all information and personnel necessary to conduct those investigations.

Conflicts – The agreement shall not be legally binding on the Board if entered into in violation of the provisions of 105 ILCS 5/34-21.3 which restricts the employment of, or the letting of contracts to, former Board members during the one year period following expiration or other termination of their terms of office.

Indebtedness – The Board's Indebtedness Policy adopted June 26, 1996 (96-0626-PO3), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Ethics – The Board's Ethics Code adopted August 24, 2023 (23-0824-PO2), as amended from time to time, shall be incorporated into and made a part of the agreement.

Contingent Liability – The agreement shall contain the clause that any expenditure beyond the current fiscal year is deemed a contingent liability, subject to appropriation in the subsequent fiscal year budget(s).

APPROVED,

Signed by:

  
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 ELIZABETH K. BARTON  
 Acting General Counsel

**ATTACHMENT A****OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS FOR AFFIRMATIVE LITIGATION/CONTINGENCY FEE**

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Terms of Engagement</b>
1.	Coghlan Law LLC	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #20-1028-AR5
2.	Linebarger, Goggan Blair & Sampson, LLP	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #20-0122-AR4
3.	Schochor, Staton, Goldberg and Cardea, P.A. (f.k.a. Schochor, Federico and Staton, P.A.)	Contingency terms set forth in Board Report #21-0428-AR3
4.	Wagstaff & Cartmell, LLP	Contingency terms set forth in Board Reports #21-0428-AR4 and #25-0227-AR4

ATTACHMENT BOUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - REAL ESTATE

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	<u>Hill Law Offices (Deborah Hill)</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u> <u>\$80,000.00</u>
2.	Neal & Leroy, LLC	\$475,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	<u>\$575,000.00</u> <u>\$555,000.00</u>

**OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - TALENT OFFICE (WORKERS COMPENSATION)**

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	Klauke Law Group	\$55,250.00
2.	Brady Connolly & Masuda, P.C.	\$55,250.00
3.	Nyhan, Bambrick, Kinzie & Lowry, P.C.	\$55,250.00
4.	Leahy Eisenberg & Fraenkel LTD	\$55,250.00
	<b>TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:</b>	<b>\$221,000.00</b>

The firms are paid as an Allocated Loss Adjustment Expenses of Workers Compensation claims and as part of the third-party administrator CCMSI's allocated budget.

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - HOURLY AND FLAT FEE BASIS

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	Akerman LLP	\$5,000.00
2.	Ancel Glink, P.C.	\$5,000.00
3.	Burke, Burns & Pinelli, Ltd.	\$5,000.00
4.	Burke Warren Mackay & Serritella, P.C.	\$20,000.00
5.	Engler Callaway Baasten & Sraga, LLC [Noted: Amended in Board Report 25-0925-AR2 by \$60,000.00]	\$85,000.00
6.	Esbrook P.C.	\$20,000.00
7.	Franczek, P.C.	\$225,000.00
8.	Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP	\$40,000.00
9.	Himes, Petrarca & Fester, Chtd.	\$3,000.00
10.	Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP	\$10,000.00
11.	Ice Miller LLP	\$15,000.00
12.	Laner Muchin, Ltd. [Noted: Amended in Board Report 25-1023-AR3 by \$50,000.00]	\$125,000.00
13.	MoloLamken, LLP	\$5,000.00
14.	Robinson, Stewart, Montgomery & Doppke LLC	\$5,000.00
15.	Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC	\$15,000.00
16.	Salvatore, Prescott, Porter & Porter, PLLC	\$65,000.00
17.	Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP	\$65,000.00
	<b>TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:</b>	<b>\$713,000.00</b>

ATTACHMENT EOUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - RISK MANAGEMENT

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	Ancel Glink, P.C. [Noted: Amended in Board Report 25-1218-AR5 by \$75,000.00]	\$220,000.00
2.	Burns Noland, LLP (f.k.a. Reiter Burns) [Noted: Amended in Board Report 25-1218-AR5 by \$100,000.00]	\$250,000.00 \$150,000.00
3.	Ekl, Williams & Provenzale, LLC	\$25,000.00
4.	Franczek, P.C.	\$50,000.00
5.	Gordon Rees Scully Mansukhani, LLP	\$160,000.00 \$60,000.00
6.	Greenberg Traurig, LLP	\$75,000.00
7.	Hinshaw & Culbertson, LLP	\$65,000.00
8.	Laner Muchin, Ltd.	\$40,000.00
9.	Nathan & Kamionski	\$50,000.00
10.	Nielsen, Zehe & Antas, P.C.	\$200,000.00 \$50,000.00
11.	Quintairos, Prieto, Wood & Boyer, P.A.	\$50,000.00
12.	Rock Fusco & Connelly, LLC	\$35,000.00
13.	Taft Stettinius & Hollister, LLP	\$10,000.00
14.	Sotos Law Firm, P.C.	\$100,000.00
15.	Esbrook P.C	\$35,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	\$1,365,000.00 \$1,015,000.00

ATTACHMENT FOUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - TALENT OFFICE

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	<u>Ice Miller LLP</u>	<u>\$35,000.00</u> <u>\$15,000.00</u>
2.	Jarecki Law Group, LLC	\$200,000.00
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	<u>\$235,000.00</u> <u>\$215,000.00</u>

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	<u>Broadband Legal Strategies, LLC</u>	<u>\$100,000.00</u> <u>\$75,000.00</u>
	TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:	<u>\$100,000.00</u> <u>\$75,000.00</u>

OUTSIDE COUNSEL LAW FIRMS - FINANCE

	<b>Firm/Practitioner</b>	<b>Not to exceed Authority</b>
1.	Burke Burns & Pinelli, Ltd	TBD
2.	BurgherGray LLP	TBD
3.	Chapman and Cutler LLP	TBD
4.	Charity & Associates, P.C.	TBD
5.	Cotillas and Associates	TBD
6.	Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP	TBD
7.	Mayer Brown LLP	TBD
8.	McGuireWoods LLP	TBD
9.	Miller Canfield PLC	TBD
10.	Nixon Peabody LLP	TBD
11.	Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP	TBD
	<b>TOTAL NTE AUTHORITY:</b>	<b>TBD</b>

The firms' NTE amount is based on the amount of bond proceeds, which are yet to be determined.