



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVINO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.

September 6, 2022

Mr. Eric Cederstrom
Superintendent
Stephenville ISD
2655 West Overhill Drive
Stephenville, Texas 76401-3003

RE: Renewal of Membership in Walsh Gallegos' Retainer Program

Dear Mr. Cederstrom:

It is our privilege to serve Stephenville Independent School District through the Walsh Gallegos Retainer Program. The District's membership is up for renewal on October 1, 2022, and so enclosed you will find our Legal Services Retainer Agreement. If the District chooses to continue its membership, please sign and return the agreement. The invoice for the renewal will be sent on or around 10/1/2022 with your regular monthly statement so there is no need to send a check with the signed agreement. This program includes the following valuable benefits for just \$1,000.00 per year:

- No-charge telephone consultation on day-to-day general and special education matters with attorneys in any of our offices,
- Reduced rates for legal work,
- Reduced fees for inservices,
- Reduced rates for practical Walsh Gallegos products such as the web-based Student Code of Conduct, The Legal Guide to DAEP & Expulsion and the Extracurricular Code of Conduct,
- A free subscription to our bi-monthly general education newsletter "*Time Out with Walsh Gallegos,*"
- A free subscription to our monthly special education newsletter "*This Just In,*" and
- Email updates about the latest developments in education law.

More information about these services and other advantages of the retainer program are included in the attached description. Also enclosed is information about our EFT/ACH payment program that provides a convenient, efficient, secure, and less costly method of payment than paper checks.

It is an honor to be of service to Stephenville Independent School District. Many districts have adopted the Texas Association of School Boards' policy BDD (Local) which requires approval of the agreement by the Board of Trustees; check your policy to see who is authorized to approve and sign the Agreement. Additionally, please note that in accordance with the requirements of HB 1295 we have filed Form 1295 with the Texas Ethics Commission and are enclosing a certification of filing of Form 1295 for your records.

We look forward to receiving your signed contract. In the meantime, please remember that you can call any of our offices and speak with the attorney of your choice to get the guidance you need, when you need it. I am pleased to be your shareholder contact regarding the retainer program. Should you have any questions about the Retainer Agreement or wish to reach me directly, please contact me at (800) 252-3405.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Todd A. Clark', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Todd A. Clark

TAC/glo
Enclosures

cc: Mr. Chad Elms, Board President
Ms. Blessing Wright, Director of Special Education



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVINO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.

**LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT
FOR STEPHENVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The Stephenville Independent School District (hereinafter "District"), acting by and through the authorized Trustee or Employee whose signature appears below, hereby retains the law firm of Walsh Gallegos Treviño Kyle & Robinson P.C. (hereinafter "Law Firm"), to provide the services to the District set forth below.

1. Telephone Consultation: The Law Firm shall provide telephone consultation at no charge to the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee pertaining to questions arising out of the general operation of the District. The District shall have access to a statewide toll-free telephone number for calls to the Law Firm.
2. Additional Legal Work: The District shall be entitled to reduced hourly rates for additional legal work over and above general telephone consultation. Examples of such additional legal work are research, opinion letters, and legal advice or representation in adversarial matters. Expenses incurred by the Law Firm in providing such additional legal work shall be charged.
3. Publications: The Law Firm shall provide at no charge the monthly publication This Just In, dealing with special education law issues, and the bi-monthly general school law publication Time Out with Walsh Gallegos, both published by the Law Firm.
4. E-mail Updates: The Law Firm shall send periodic e-mail updates to designated District personnel and trustees relating to developments in school law. The content and publication schedule of such updates shall be determined solely by the Law Firm.
5. Retainer Term and Cost: There shall be a fee of \$1,000.00 for this Retainer Agreement due upon execution and annually thereafter on the anniversary of the execution date below. This Retainer Agreement shall remain in effect until notice of cancellation is received.
6. Compliance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2271: Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2271, as amended, the Law Firm verifies that it does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this Agreement.
7. Compliance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2252: Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2252, as amended, the Law Firm verifies that it is not engaged in business with Iran, Sudan, or a foreign terrorist organization, as prohibited by Section 2252.152.

8. Compliance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2274 and 809: Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapters 2274 and 809, as amended, the Law Firm verifies that it does not boycott energy companies and will not boycott energy companies during the term of this Agreement.
9. Compliance with Texas Government Code Chapter 2274: Pursuant to Texas Government Code Chapter 2274, as amended, the Law Firm verifies that it does not discriminate against firearm entities or firearm trade associations and will not discriminate against firearm entities or firearm trade associations during the term of this Agreement.
10. Scope of Attorney-Client Relationship: This Retainer Agreement establishes a limited attorney-client relationship only between the Law Firm and the District. The relationship exists only as to the consultations and additional legal work that are initiated by the District and accepted by the Law Firm pursuant to this Agreement. The Retainer Agreement does not impose any duty upon the Law Firm to provide advice or work to the District regarding legal matters absent a request by the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director, or designee for such advice or work on a matter. The Law Firm and the District acknowledge and represent that this Agreement does not establish an attorney-client relationship between the Law Firm and any individual Trustees or Employees of the District. If a lawsuit or other adversarial matter is brought against the District and/or any Trustee or Employee of the District, the Law Firm may require the execution of one or more separate Letters of Engagement prior to undertaking an attorney-client relationship in the matter.
11. Texas Lawyer's Creed: Under rules of the Texas Supreme Court and the State Bar of Texas, we advise our clients of the contents of the Texas Lawyer's Creed, a copy of which is enclosed. In addition, we advise clients that the State Bar of Texas investigates and prosecutes complaints of professional misconduct against attorneys licensed in Texas. A brochure entitled Attorney Complaint Information is available at all of our offices and is likewise available upon request. A client that has any questions about the State Bar's disciplinary process should call the Office of the General Counsel of the State Bar of Texas at 1-800-932-1900 (toll free).

STEPHENVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

By: _____

(Signature)

(Print Name)

(Title)

(Date)

WALSH GALLEGOS TREVIÑO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.

By:



Joe A. De Los Santos
Managing Shareholder

9/1/2022

(Date)

THE TEXAS LAWYER'S CREED -- A MANDATE FOR PROFESSIONALISM

The Texas Supreme Court and the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals adopted this Creed, with the requirement that lawyers advise their clients of its contents when undertaking representation.

I am a lawyer. I am entrusted by the People of Texas to preserve and improve our legal system. I am licensed by the Supreme Court of Texas. I must therefore abide by the Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct, but I know that professionalism requires more than merely avoiding the violation of laws and rules. I am committed to this creed for no other reason than it is right.

I. OUR LEGAL SYSTEM

A lawyer owes to the administration of justice personal dignity, integrity, and independence. A lawyer should always adhere to the highest principles of professionalism. I am passionately proud of my profession. Therefore, "My word is my bond." I am responsible to assure that all persons have access to competent representation regardless of wealth or position in life. I commit myself to an adequate and effective pro bono program. I am obligated to educate my clients, the public, and other lawyers regarding the spirit and letter of this Creed. I will always be conscious of my duty to the judicial system.

II. LAWYER TO CLIENT

A lawyer owes to a client allegiance, learning, skill, and industry. A lawyer shall employ all appropriate means to protect and advance the client's legitimate rights, claims, and objectives. A lawyer shall not be deterred by any real or imagined fear of judicial disfavor or public unpopularity, nor be influenced by mere self-interest. I will advise my client of the contents of this creed when undertaking representation. I will endeavor to achieve my client's lawful objectives in legal transactions and in litigation as quickly and economically as possible. I will be loyal and committed to my client's lawful objectives, but I will not permit that loyalty and commitment to interfere with my duty to provide objective and independent advice. I will advise my client that civility and courtesy are expected and are not a sign of weakness. I will advise my client of proper and expected behavior. I will treat adverse parties and witnesses with fairness and due consideration. A client has no right to demand that I abuse anyone or indulge in any offensive conduct. I will advise my client that we will not pursue conduct which is intended primarily to harass or drain the financial resources of the opposing party. I will advise my client that we will not pursue tactics which are intended primarily for delay. I will advise my client that we will not pursue any course of action which is without merit. I will advise my client that I reserve the right to determine whether to grant accommodations to opposing counsel in

all matters that do not adversely affect my client's lawful objectives. A client has no right to instruct me to refuse reasonable requests made by other counsel. I will advise my client regarding the availability of mediation, arbitration, and other alternative methods of resolving and settling disputes.

III. LAWYER TO LAWYER

A lawyer owes to opposing counsel, in the conduct of legal transactions and the pursuit of litigation, courtesy, candor, cooperation, and scrupulous observance of all agreements and mutual understandings. Ill feelings between clients shall not influence a lawyer's conduct, attitude, or demeanor toward opposing counsel. A lawyer shall not engage in unprofessional conduct in retaliation against other unprofessional conduct. I will be courteous, civil, and prompt in oral and written communications. I will not quarrel over matters of form or style, but I will concentrate on matters of substance. I will identify for other counsel or parties all changes I have made in documents submitted for review. I will attempt to prepare documents which correctly reflect the agreement of the parties. I will not include provisions which have not been agreed upon or omit provisions which are necessary to reflect the agreement of the parties. I will notify opposing counsel, and, if appropriate, the Court or other persons, as soon as practicable, when hearings, depositions, meetings, conferences, or closings are cancelled. I will agree to reasonable requests for extensions of time and for waiver of procedural formalities, provided legitimate objectives of my client will not be adversely affected. I will not serve motions or pleadings in any manner that unfairly limits another party's opportunity to respond. I will attempt to resolve by agreement my objections to matters contained in pleadings and discovery requests and responses. I can disagree without being disagreeable. I recognize that effective representation does not require antagonistic or obnoxious behavior. I will neither encourage nor knowingly permit my client or anyone under my control to do anything which would be unethical or improper if done by me. I will not, without good cause, attribute bad motives or unethical conduct to opposing counsel nor bring the profession into disrepute by unfounded accusations of impropriety. I will avoid disparaging personal remarks or acrimony towards opposing counsel, parties, and witnesses. I will not be influenced by any ill feeling between clients. I will abstain from any allusion to personal peculiarities or idiosyncrasies of opposing counsel. I will not take advantage, by causing any default or dismissal to be rendered, when I know the identity of an opposing counsel, without first inquiring about that counsel's intention to proceed. I will promptly submit orders to the Court. I will deliver copies to opposing counsel before or contemporaneously with submission to the Court. I will promptly approve the form of orders which accurately reflect the substance of the rulings of the Court. I will not attempt to gain an unfair advantage by sending the Court or its staff correspondence or copies of correspondence. I will not arbitrarily schedule a deposition, court appearance, or hearing until a good faith effort has been made to schedule it by agreement. I will readily stipulate

to undisputed facts in order to avoid needless costs or inconvenience for any party. I will refrain from excessive and abusive discovery. I will comply with all reasonable discovery requests. I will not resist discovery requests which are not objectionable. I will not make objections nor give instructions to a witness for the purpose of delaying or obstructing the discovery process. I will encourage witnesses to respond to all deposition questions which are reasonably understandable. I will neither encourage nor permit my witness to quibble about words where their meaning is reasonably clear. I will not seek Court intervention to obtain discovery which is clearly improper and not discoverable. I will not seek sanctions or disqualification unless it is necessary for protection of my client's lawful objectives or is fully justified by the circumstances.

IV. LAWYER AND JUDGE

Lawyers and judges owe each other respect, diligence, candor, punctuality, and protection against unjust and improper criticism and attack. Lawyers and judges are equally responsible to protect the dignity and independence of the Court and the profession. I will always recognize that the position of judge is the symbol of both the judicial system and administration of justice. I will refrain from conduct that degrades this symbol. I will conduct myself in Court in a professional manner and demonstrate my respect for the Court and the law. I will treat counsel, opposing parties, the Court, and members of the Court staff with courtesy and civility. I will be punctual. I will not engage in any conduct which offends the dignity and decorum of proceedings. I will not knowingly misrepresent, mischaracterize, misquote or miscite facts or authorities to gain an advantage. I will respect the rulings of the Court. I will give the issues in controversy deliberate, impartial and studied analysis and consideration. I will be considerate of the time constraints and pressures imposed upon the Court, Court staff and counsel in efforts to administer justice and resolve disputes.



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVINO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.

Program for EFT/ACH Payments

Walsh Gallegos Trevino Kyle & Robinson P.C. is working to improve our services to you and assist you in saving time and money. To that end, we now offer our clients the option to pay their invoices electronically by either Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Automated Clearing House (ACH) payment--instead of the traditional paper, check-by-mail method.

An EFT/ACH payment authorizes the client's bank to move funds from its bank account to the bank account of the authorized merchant (Walsh, Gallegos). This movement of funds is done between banks electronically—thus the term Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) or Automated Clearing House (ACH). This electronic movement of funds between banks is more convenient, efficient, secure, and far less costly than the handling of paper checks.

If your district is interested in participating in our EFT/ACH payment program, please e-mail a request to WA-EFT@wabsa.com or call Karla Alvarado at (800) 252-3405 to receive our bank account information for EFT/ACH payments.

We are excited to be able to extend this opportunity to our clients. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions.



WALSH GALLEGOS
TREVINO KYLE & ROBINSON P.C.

FEE SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 16, 2022 LEGAL SERVICES RETAINER AGREEMENT

For Retainer Program Clients

Annual retainer fee is \$1,000 billed each year on the anniversary of the client joining the program.

Telephone consultation with school officials in this program regarding general routine legal matters is free of charge. The firm has toll-free telephone numbers that are made available to these clients.

An hourly rate of \$250/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$275/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$315/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$335/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on research, opinion letters, office visits, board meetings, and other work of a general nature.

For matters requiring more in-depth work, such as document review, negotiation of a contract, grievance, nonrenewal, review of constructions documents, litigation, administrative appeals, and the like, all time, including telephone calls, is charged at the current hourly retainer rates shown above, plus expenses. A new file is set up so that the billings show legal fees attributable to that particular matter.

For Non-retainer Program Clients

An hourly rate of \$250/hour for associates licensed less than one year, \$275/hour for associates licensed one to two years, \$335/hour for associates licensed over two years, or \$355/hour for shareholders is charged for time spent on any work, including all telephone calls, office visits, litigation, research, opinion letters, hearings, and the like.

The above rates are subject to change at any time.



BENEFITS OF THE RETAINER PROGRAM

1. **FREE TELEPHONE CONSULTATION:** The law firm provides telephone consultation at no charge to the District's Board President, Superintendent, Special Education Director or any designee pertaining to questions arising out of the general operation of the District. Last year, our member clients received an average of 10.27 free hours of telephone consultation. That is a \$3,047.00 value in telephone calls alone!

As a retainer client, the District has exclusive access to the statewide toll-free telephone numbers for calls to the law firm. Before making decisions with legal consequences, use our exclusive toll-free number to reach any Walsh Gallegos attorney:

- Austin (800) 252-3405
- San Antonio (800) 232-9169
- Irving (800) 231-4207
- Houston (888) 565-6864
- Rio Grande Valley (866) 770-6864
- Amarillo (800) 622-6864
- Albuquerque (800) 771-6864

2. **REDUCED RATES FOR ADDITIONAL LEGAL WORK:** The District receives reduced hourly rates for additional works that goes beyond the initial general telephone consultations, such as analyzing documents, writing opinion letters, attending school board meetings, or follow up phone consultations. Though the hourly rates are reduced for retainer clients, any actual expenses (copy costs or mileage, for example) incurred by the law firm in providing such additional work are charged.

3. **FREE SUBSCRIPTIONS TO FIRM PUBLICATIONS:** Membership in the Walsh Gallegos Retainer Program also entitles the District to receive free subscriptions to both of the firm's newsletters:

- (1) the informative bi-monthly newsletter "*Time Out with Walsh Gallegos*" that provides timely reminders and practical suggestions about general education law issues arising throughout the school year, and
- (2) the monthly publication "*This Just In*" which addresses legal issues specific to the special needs of students with disabilities

4. **E-MAIL UPDATES:** As another benefit of the Retainer Program, Walsh Gallegos sends periodic e-mail updates to you (and to any other District personnel or trustees you designate) to help keep the District abreast of the latest developments in school law. These updates, averaging more than one per month, address a broad range of timely topics and are designed to keep you informed and better prepared in your work for the District. Examples of the topics of our updates include:

- New Rules for Public Comment
- New Legislation Regarding PIA Requests and Retention of Information
- Thinking of alternatives to TRS-ActiveCare for your District's employees?
- Planning Ahead for FEMA
- Potential Forms of COVID-19 Related District Funding
- Best Practices on Addressing and Preventing Cyberbullying in a Time of COVID-19 Closures
- Staying Current With FERPA As Virtual Instruction Expands
- Final Title IX Sexual Harassment Regulations Released
- Graduation Ceremonies During the Pandemic
- The Digital Millennium Copyright Act, Copyright Infringement, & Your School District
- Time Flies! Has Your District Completed the Required Cybersecurity Training Yet?

Don't let your District personnel miss our next update!

5. **REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH GALLEGOS INSERVICES:** Our Retainer Program members also receive reduced rates on all inservices presented at the District. Our up-to-date training programs are presented by attorneys with firsthand experience and knowledge about the current legal issues confronting Texas school districts. Our retainer clients also receive priority scheduling for inservice training.

6. **REDUCED RATES ON ALL WALSH GALLEGOS PRODUCTS:** To assist clients in their day-to-day operations, we have developed several practical products to save you time and head off potential problems during the school year. These products are easy to navigate, written in plain language, and are full of useful suggestions. As a member of the Retainer Program, clients receive reduced rates on these helpful tools, including:
 - Interactive Student Code of Conduct
 - Discipline Guide for DAEP & Expulsion
 - Administrator's Anti-Bullying Toolkit
 - Sexual Harassment Investigation Guide
 - Operating Guidelines for Cameras in Special Education Settings

7. **ONE FREE ON-DEMAND WEBINAR:** Our retainer clients are also eligible for one free On-Demand webinar of the District's choice, to be selected from our published webinar schedule. Our On-Demand webinars provide excellent training for school administrators without having to leave the district.



STEPHENVILLE ISD E-MAIL UPDATE FORM

The Walsh Gallegos E-mail Update program is designed to keep our clients informed of the latest developments in school law. These updates address a broad range of topics related to legal issues confronting school districts. In addition, e-mail update recipients will also be notified of upcoming audio/video conferences and specialty publications produced by Walsh Gallegos.

Below is the list of personnel and/or Board of Trustees that are currently in our system. Please review carefully and make any necessary changes or additions. Also note that there may be some names without an e-mail address or position. Please provide a current e-mail address, indicate whether the individual should remain one of our e-mail update recipients, and provide the named position of the individual. If you are having difficulty receiving our e-mail updates, please ask your technology department to add mypinpointe.com to the list of accepted domains.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Mr. Eric Cederstrom	Superintendent	eric.cederstrom@s ville.us
Mr. Chad Elms	Board President	elmsc@sbcglobal.net
Ms. Blessing Wright	Director of Special Education	blessing.wright@s ville.us
Mrs. Teri Hodges	Executive Director of Finance and Operations	teri.hodges@s ville.us
Ms. Kelly Magin	Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction	kelly.magin@s ville.us
Ms. Kathy Hampton	Executive Director of HR and Student Services	kathy.hampton@s ville.us
Dr. Robert Barberee	Board Vice President	drbarberee@drbarberee.com
Mr. Scott E. Osman	Board Member	osman@our-town.com
Mrs. Sherrie Evans	Board Secretary	sherrieleaevans@gmail.com
Mr. Donny Hill	Board Member	spid45@yahoo.com
Mrs. Phyllis Stewart	Board Member	phyllisstewart94@gmail.com

Attach additional sheets if necessary. Please return this form to Client Services. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Client Services at (800) 252-3405.

VIA FAX

(512) 467-9318

VIA MAIL

Client Services
Walsh Gallegos
P.O. Box 2156
Austin, TX 78768

VIA E-MAIL

info@wabsa.com

CERTIFICATE OF INTERESTED PARTIES

FORM **1295**

1 of 1

Complete Nos. 1 - 4 and 6 if there are interested parties.
Complete Nos. 1, 2, 3, 5, and 6 if there are no interested parties.

**OFFICE USE ONLY
CERTIFICATION OF FILING**

Certificate Number:
2022-921628

Date Filed:
08/12/2022

Date Acknowledged:

1 Name of business entity filing form, and the city, state and country of the business entity's place of business.
Walsh Gallegos Treviño Kyle & Robinson P.C., or just Walsh Gallegos
Austin, TX United States

2 Name of governmental entity or state agency that is a party to the contract for which the form is being filed.
Stephenville ISD

3 Provide the identification number used by the governmental entity or state agency to track or identify the contract, and provide a description of the services, goods, or other property to be provided under the contract.
26350
Legal Services Retainer Agreement

4	Name of Interested Party	City, State, Country (place of business)	Nature of interest (check applicable)	
			Controlling	Intermediary
	Walsh, Jim	Austin, TX United States	X	
	Gallegos, Elena	Austin, TX United States	X	
	Trevino, Oscar	Austin, TX United States	X	
	Kyle, Paige	Austin, TX United States	X	

5 Check only if there is NO Interested Party.

6 UNSWORN DECLARATION

My name is Diana Stangl, and my date of birth is 9/29/1957.

My address is 2603 Tip Cove, Austin, TX, 78704, USA.
(street) (city) (state) (zip code) (country)

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed in Travis County, State of Texas, on the 12th day of August, 2022.
(month) (year)

Diana Stangl - Firm Administrator

Signature of authorized agent of contracting business entity
(Declarant)