

**LITIGATION RETENTION AGREEMENT
FOR SPECIAL COUNSEL APPOINTED BY THE
SOUTH CAROLINA ATTORNEY GENERAL
AS TO THE "SONNY" MEVERS FOUNDATION**

This litigation retention agreement ("Agreement") is by and between South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson ("Attorney General") and the below-signed attorneys ("Special Counsel").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Attorney General has concluded that it is in the best interest of the State of South Carolina to retain Special Counsel specifically for this litigation matter; and

WHEREAS, the Attorney General hereby engages Special Counsel to provide legal representation including, but not limited to, all preparation for, settlement of, and/or actual litigation against Minnie Lee Newman relating to the Sonny Mevers Foundation; and

WHEREAS, Special Counsel specifically represent that they have the skill, experience, expertise, resources, and competence necessary for the meaningful resolution of this litigation;

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration for the mutual promises and covenants set forth herein, and for other valuable consideration, the Attorney General and Special Counsel hereby agree to the following terms and conditions:

ARTICLE I. TERM

This Agreement, which shall serve as the appointment of the attorneys whose signatures are affixed below as Special Counsel to the Attorney General, commences on February 13, 2020, and terminates at the completion of this litigation matter, unless this work is concluded earlier or the Attorney General or Special Counsel terminates the appointment earlier pursuant to Article VI of this Agreement. If the work for which this appointment is made is not completed by the termination date, then the Attorney General may re-appoint Special Counsel for an additional term or terms to be determined at that time. The Attorney General shall not be liable to compensate Special Counsel for any services rendered after termination of the Agreement.

ARTICLE II. SERVICES

A. Scope of Appointment

Special Counsel shall provide legal services, advice, and consultation to the Attorney General for this litigation in a manner consistent with accepted standards of practice in the legal profession. In view of the personal nature of the services to be rendered under this appointment, the Attorney General shall be the sole judge of the adequacy of those services. The parties agree:

1. Special Counsel assumes joint responsibility with the Attorney General's Office for the representation of the State in this litigation. However, the Attorney

General shall have final authority over all aspects of this litigation. The litigation may be commenced, conducted, settled, approved, and ended only with the express approval and signature of the Attorney General. The Attorney General at his sole discretion shall appoint a designated assistant or assistants ("designated assistant") to oversee the litigation, which appointment the Attorney General may modify at will.

2. Special Counsel shall provide legal services to the Attorney General subject to the approval of the Attorney General's Office for the purposes of seeking injunctive relief, monetary relief, and other relief against all entities in this litigation.
3. The Attorney General may provide attorneys and other staff members to assist Special Counsel with this litigation. The identity and responsibilities of such personnel so assigned shall be determined solely by the Attorney General. All pleadings, motions, briefs, formal documents, and agreements must bear the signature of the Attorney General or his designated assistant.
4. Special Counsel shall coordinate the provision of the legal services with the Attorney General or his designated assistant, other personnel of the Attorney General's Office, and such others as the Attorney General may appoint as Special Counsel. All pleadings, motions, briefs, and other material which may be filed with the court shall first be provided to the Attorney General's Office in draft form in a reasonable and timely manner for review and approval. Special Counsel shall copy the Attorney General's Office on all case-related correspondence. Regular status meetings may be held as requested by the Attorney General.
5. Special Counsel shall communicate with state entities through the Attorney General's Office unless otherwise authorized by the Attorney General.
6. Special Counsel shall provide sufficient resources, including attorney time, to prosecute this litigation in accordance with Rule 407, Rules of Professional Conduct, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules.
7. The scope of Special Counsel's retention under this Agreement shall include appellate proceedings in this litigation.
8. The scope of Special Counsel's retention under this Agreement shall include any litigation initiated by the defendant(s) against the Attorney General or the State relating to this litigation or this Agreement.

B. Non-Delegation of Work

Special Counsel may not, without the express approval of the Attorney General, delegate any work whatsoever to any attorney in any other firm.

C. Employment Status

Special Counsel will render services pursuant to this Agreement as an independent contractor. Neither Special Counsel nor any employee of Special Counsel shall be regarded as employed by, or as an employee of, the Attorney General or the State of South Carolina, nor shall they be considered public officials.

ARTICLE III. CASE MANAGEMENT

A. Status Reports

The Attorney General may at any time request status reports from Special Counsel regarding any aspect of this litigation. Within five business days after the request is received, Special Counsel shall submit such status reports to the Attorney General. Failure to timely provide such status reports may result in forfeiture of a portion of Special Counsel's compensation at the sole discretion of the Attorney General.

At a minimum, status reports must include a description of the current status of the litigation, any significant events that have occurred since the previous status report, and a prospective analysis of any significant future events.

B. Notices and Correspondence

All notices, demands, requests, consents, approvals, and other instruments required to be given pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been properly given when: (1) hand delivered; (2) sent by U.S. Registered or Certified mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid; (3) if certified or registered mail is either refused or unclaimed, then by regular U.S. Mail; (4) by overnight delivery service with receipt (Airborne, FedEx, UPS, etc.); or (5) by email.

Both Special Counsel and the Attorney General may designate a representative to receive such instruments and correspondence as described herein. While both parties recognize this designation may be changed at any time, and without consent of the other party, by giving written notice of the new designated representative, until further notice, such instruments and/or correspondence should be addressed to:

Name: Alan Wilson
Attorney General
Address: P. O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: 803-734-3970

Name: C. Havird Jones, Jr.
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Address: P. O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211

Phone: 803-734-3970
Email: sjones@scag.gov

Name: Kristin M. Simons
Assistant Attorney General
Address: P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, SC 29211
Phone: 803-734-6134
Email: ksimons@scag.gov

Name: C. Michael Branham
Clement Rivers, LLP
Address: 25 Calhoun St., Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843-724-6683
Email: mbranham@ycrlaw.com

Name: Stephen L. Brown
Clement Rivers, LLP
Address: 25 Calhoun St., Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843-720-5488
Email: sbrown@ycrlaw.com

Name: Russell G. Hines
Clement Rivers, LLP
Address: 25 Calhoun St., Suite 400
Charleston, SC 29401
Phone: 843-720-5488
Email: rhines@ycrlaw.com

C. Communication

Special Counsel agrees to consult in advance, in person, by telephone, or in writing, with the Attorney General promptly on all matters that may be precedential, controversial, of particular public interest, or otherwise noteworthy or important, and to keep the Attorney General fully informed at all times.

Special Counsel shall give timely written notice to the Attorney General of any and all of the following legal events in this litigation:

1. Pleadings;
2. Dispositive motions;
3. Hearings;
4. Rulings;
5. Trials;

6. Settlement negotiations;
7. Appeals or Notice of Appeals;
8. Briefs filed by any party or entity;
9. Appellate arguments or decisions; and
10. Enforcement efforts

Special Counsel agrees to meet with Attorney General's Office personnel when and where requested by the Attorney General in furtherance of this litigation.

D. Settlement

The Attorney General must approve in advance all aspects of this litigation and shall be included in any settlement discussions. Special Counsel agrees that any settlement in this case must receive the Attorney General's express prior approval in writing. Special Counsel shall confer with the Attorney General as early as practicable in any settlement negotiation process.

E. Appeals

It is important that the Attorney General receives early notice of any potential appellate litigation in any way affecting the State. Therefore, Special Counsel agrees to give prompt oral and written notice to the Attorney General when receiving: (1) any dispositive decision by any appellate court affecting the litigation in any way; or (2) a Notice of Appeal from a court's decision filed by any party to this litigation.

F. Public Records

Any material, data, files, discs, or documents created, produced, or gathered by Special Counsel, or in Special Counsel's possession in furtherance of this litigation, or which fulfills an obligation of this appointment, shall be considered the exclusive property of the State of South Carolina. Special Counsel agrees to adhere to South Carolina's Freedom of Information Act, South Carolina Code of Laws §§ 30-4-10 *et seq.*, for the purposes of maintaining all public records in accordance with State law. Public records requests are to be handled by the Attorney General's Office, and any public records requests received by Special Counsel shall be emailed to the Attorney General's Office within one business day of receipt. Special Counsel agrees to cooperate fully with the Attorney General's Office in responding to any public records request received by the Attorney General pertaining to this litigation, comply with the Attorney General's policy on document retention, and to refrain from destroying documents unless otherwise permitted under this policy. Special Counsel agrees to comply with Rule 417 of the South Carolina Appellate Court Rules. Special Counsel agrees to request written confirmation from the Attorney General's Office prior to destroying any documents. This Agreement shall be considered a public document.

G. Settlement or Judgment Proceeds

All settlement or judgment proceeds shall be paid by or on behalf of the defendant(s) to the Attorney General's Office, which shall distribute them or have them distributed.

ARTICLE IV. COMPENSATION

A. Fee Schedule and Division

Special Counsel will be compensated for their services as follows:

1. Special Counsel shall be reimbursed for certain costs and expenses incurred in this litigation and any appeals pursuant to Article V below.
2. Special Counsel shall be compensated for time at the following hourly rates:

C. Michael Branham, Partner	\$250.00
Stephen L. Brown, Partner	\$250.00
Russell G. Hines, Partner	\$250.00
Pollyanna Bell, Project Assistant	\$100.00
Aimee M. Justman, Legal Assistant	\$100.00

Special Counsel is required to submit detailed time records on a monthly basis for time worked over the previous month. Each monthly time record must clearly identify, by name or initials, the attorney or paralegal who performed the work, the date of the work, a detailed description of the work, and the number of hours or fraction thereof worked to the nearest tenth of an hour. When initials are used, the submission must identify all persons whose initials appear on the invoice and indicate whether each is an attorney or paralegal.

Special Counsel may delegate work within its firm to attorneys and staff members who are not explicitly named in this agreement or subsequent amendment but who are directly employed by Special Counsel and whose experience and expertise are reflective of Special Counsel's. Special Counsel, as discussed in Article IV of this Agreement, shall clearly designate on monthly billing statements the names or initials and corresponding compensation rates of employees delegated work within Special Counsel's firm. Employees delegated work within Special Counsel's firm will be compensated hourly as follows: Partners, \$250.00; Associates, \$150.00; Non-Attorney Staff, \$100.00.

No time records shall be submitted or paid for work occurring either prior to the effective date of this Agreement or after its termination. The Attorney General, in his sole discretion, may decline to pay an hourly fee for time determined to be unnecessary, unreasonable, and/or not submitted in accordance with the requirements of this Agreement.

B. Compensation upon Termination

In the event this Agreement is terminated by Special Counsel or the Attorney General, Special Counsel shall be reimbursed only for all properly documented hours worked and expenses and costs, as defined in Article V of this Agreement, rendered prior to termination.

C. No Other Payment Source

Neither the State of South Carolina nor the Attorney General shall be required under this Agreement, or otherwise, to compensate or reimburse Special Counsel for their work in this

litigation other than as set forth in Articles IV and V herein. Special Counsel shall not be entitled to and shall not accept compensation or reimbursement for this litigation from any other source.

D. Court Approval of Fees and Costs

When appropriate, the attorneys' fees and costs awarded to Special Counsel shall be approved by a Court of competent jurisdiction.

ARTICLE V. EXPENSES AND COSTS

A. Advancement of Expenses and Costs

Special Counsel shall advance all costs, expenses, and disbursements, including expert witness fees and costs, deposition costs, and costs of document production, other than those costs paid by the Attorney General's Office in its sole discretion.

B. Expert and Consultant Expenses

Special Counsel shall seek prior approval from the Attorney General for the retention of experts or consultants before incurring expenses related to such expert. Provided that the Attorney General has approved the retention of an expert or consultant, Special Counsel shall be reimbursed for the expert's or consultant's retainer and fees incurred on an hourly basis. Other expert and consultant expenses will be reimbursed in accordance with the provisions of Section V.C.

C. Other Expenses

Special Counsel shall be reimbursed for other certain reasonable expenses and costs enumerated below.

1. Overnight lodging shall be reimbursed at actual cost up to a maximum of the rate published by the United States General Services Administration as of the date of the lodging exclusive of taxes and fees. There is no reimbursement for in-room internet, room service, business center services, gratuity, or any other hotel services or upgrades.
2. Meals will be reimbursed as specified in the State of South Carolina Statewide Disbursement Regulations promulgated by the South Carolina Comptroller General's Office.
3. Automobile travel shall be reimbursed at the rate per mile published by the Internal Revenue Service for business miles driven as of the date of the automobile travel. Special Counsel must document the date of the travel, the address of the departure location, the address of the arrival location, and the purpose of the travel in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Automobile travel reimbursement must not exceed the commercial coach fare available for the same travel. There is no reimbursement for gas.
4. All other travel or travel-related expenses, including airfare, train, bus, taxi,

shuttle, parking, and baggage fees, will be reimbursed at actual cost. Airfare reimbursements must be for commercial coach fares. There is no reimbursement for seat upgrades, preferred seating, preferred boarding, internet access, or any other transportation related upgrade.

5. Actual expenses for court fees and both offensive and defensive discovery, including but not limited to filing fees, service of process, motions fees, document productions, transcripts, and witness fees, as well as mailing costs related thereto. Charges for priority or overnight mail services shall be reimbursed only if use of such services is necessary.

6. If Special Counsel determines that the hiring of an Outside Vendor for any discovery, electronic discovery, or printing related project is reasonably necessary to the litigation, Special Counsel shall assess and select an appropriate Outside Vendor based on objective criteria, including but not limited to expertise, experience, professional certifications, capacity, geographic location, and cost. The Attorney General retains the right to veto the selection of any Outside Vendor, and the Attorney General must give written approval prior to the use of or contracting with any Outside Vendor by Special Counsel.

7. There will be no reimbursement for Westlaw, LexisNexis, PACER, or other research expenses, or any telephone calls, or any other expense, unless prior approval is obtained in writing from the Attorney General.

Any deviation from these rules, such as a hotel room higher than GSA rate, must be approved by the Attorney General's Office prior to Special Counsel incurring the expense. Should a significant, unusual, and unexpected expense arise that is necessary and germane to the litigation, Special Counsel may request approval from the Attorney General for such expense. The Attorney General shall, in his sole discretion, determine whether Special Counsel shall be reimbursed for such expenses.

D. Form and Timing of Submission

Special Counsel shall submit invoices every 30 days for any expenses incurred over the previous 30 days for which Special Counsel seeks reimbursement.

For an expense to be reimbursed, Special Counsel must provide an original receipt reflecting the charges. Credit card statements are not sufficient unless approved by the Attorney General's Office. The receipts will be scanned and submitted to the Attorney General's Office as a single PDF document.

In addition, Special Counsel will provide an Excel spreadsheet that contains, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Date of expense,
2. Amount of expense,
3. Amount of expense for which reimbursement is sought,
4. Description of expense,
5. Page reference to the PDF document of receipts.

To the extent prior written approval of the Attorney General's Office was given for a particular expense, such approval shall be included with the invoice.

Proper documentation by receipts or otherwise shall be submitted with all invoices and all documentation shall be retained by Special Counsel for at least one full year following the termination of this Agreement. All expenses must be itemized and no reimbursement will be granted for "miscellaneous" listings. The Attorney General may, in his sole discretion, decline to reimburse Special Counsel for any expenses determined to be unnecessary, unreasonable, improperly documented, or improperly submitted.

ARTICLE VI. TERMINATION

A. Termination by the Parties

The Attorney General reserves the right to terminate this Agreement at any time, in his sole discretion, and without cause or duty of explanation. Special Counsel may terminate its duties and obligations under the Appointment and this Agreement upon thirty (30) days written notice to the Attorney General. Termination on the part of the Special Counsel shall not be effective if the Attorney General finds in his sole discretion that such termination prejudices or has a material adverse effect on the State of South Carolina. Upon termination, all material, data, files, discs, or documents created, produced, or gathered by Special Counsel, or in Special Counsel's possession in furtherance of this litigation, or which fulfills an obligation of this appointment shall be immediately delivered to the Attorney General as directed by him, and without encumbrance or lien or any cost or charge to the Attorney General.

ARTICLE VII. OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

A. Media Statements

The parties agree that neither Special Counsel nor any partner, associate, employee, or any other person assisting with the legal work contemplated by this Agreement shall speak to any representative of a television station, radio station, newspaper, magazine, or any other media outlet concerning the work outlined or contemplated by this Agreement without first obtaining approval of the Attorney General. This Agreement specifically prohibits Special Counsel from speaking on behalf of the Attorney General or the State of South Carolina to any representative of the news media.

B. Jurisdiction and Choice of Law

This Agreement shall be administered in the State of South Carolina and shall be interpreted under the laws of the State of South Carolina. Special Counsel consents to complete jurisdiction in the appropriate courts of the State of South Carolina. This Agreement and any claims arising in any way out of it shall be governed by the laws of the State of South Carolina. Any litigation arising out of or relating in any way to this Agreement or the performance thereunder shall be brought in state courts of appropriate jurisdiction in the State of South Carolina, and Special Counsel hereby irrevocably consents to such exclusive jurisdiction.

C. Code of Professional Responsibility

If, during the appointment as Special Counsel, a complaint is filed against Special Counsel or Special Counsel's firm, alleging a violation of Rule 407, Rules of Professional Conduct, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, or the applicable rules governing the state bar in which Special Counsel has been admitted, or the Code of Professional Responsibility, Special Counsel shall give prompt written notice of such complaint to the Attorney General. The Attorney General retains the right, in his sole discretion, to immediately terminate this Agreement if he deems the complaint to adversely affect in any way Special Counsel's ability to perform their duties required herein, or to adversely affect this litigation, the Attorney General, or the State of South Carolina.

D. Insurance

Special Counsel agrees to carry adequate professional liability insurance and to provide proof of same to the Attorney General promptly upon request.

E. Conflict of Interest

Special Counsel represents that they have no conflict of interest with the State of South Carolina, its agencies, or subdivisions at this time. Special Counsel agrees that if a conflict of interest, potential or otherwise, arises, as defined by Rule 407, Rules of Professional Conduct, South Carolina Appellate Court Rules, during the term of this litigation, then Special Counsel will give timely written notice to the Attorney General. Special Counsel must request and obtain a written authorization from the Attorney General prior to undertaking any representation against or adverse to the State of South Carolina, its offices, boards, departments, or institutions during the term of this appointment.

F. Equal Opportunity

Special Counsel hereby represents that neither they nor their law firms discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, sex, age, national origin, or disability against any person in the employment of personnel in their offices.

G. Right to Contact

To clarify, nothing in this Agreement shall be construed to prohibit defendant(s) from discussing this case with the Attorney General without the presence of Special Counsel if the Attorney General agrees to such discussion.

H. Entire Agreement/Integration

This Agreement constitutes the entire understanding of the parties. Both parties agree that there is no other understanding or agreement other than the terms expressly stated herein.

I. Severability of Terms and Conditions

If any provision of this Agreement shall be held invalid, illegal, or unenforceable in any respect, said provision shall be severed. The validity, legality, and enforceability of all other provisions

of this Agreement shall not in any way be affected or impaired unless such severance would cause this Agreement to fail of its essential purpose.

J. Amendment or Modification

No amendment or modification of this Agreement shall be effective against either party unless such amendment or modification is set forth in writing and signed by both parties.

K. Headings

The headings herein are for reference and convenience only. They are not intended and shall not be construed to be a substantive part of this Agreement or in any other way to affect the validity, construction, interpretation, or effect of any of the provisions of this Agreement.

L. Counterparts

This Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be an original and all of which constitute one and the same instrument.

Attorney General of South Carolina

Alan Wilson
Alan Wilson

Date: March 13, 2025

Special Counsel

Stephen L Brown
Clement Rivers LLP by Stephen L Brown
Managing Partner

Date: March 12, 2025