



**Board of Directors Meeting**

**March 13, 2008**

**Selection of Legal Services**

**Item IV. D.**

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<b>Recommended Action:</b>	<b>Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel &amp; Burns, LLP for legal services for JWB</b>
<b>Issue:</b>	<b>Retirement of Current Board Attorney is retiring</b>
<b>Program:</b>	<b>All</b>
<b>Budget Impact:</b>	<b>Funds will come from the current Administrative Budget</b>
<b>Strategic Plan Goal:</b>	<b>Efficient and effective operation of JWB</b>

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**Background:**

After more than 27 years of distinguished service, Terry Smiljanich is retiring as legal counsel to JWB. A committee consisting of Board and staff, as well as Mr. Smiljanich, reviewed the letters of interest and interviewed representatives from four firms. The members of the Committee included: Chair Joseph Smith, Bob Dillinger, Martha Lenderman, Terry Smiljanich, Gay Lancaster, Lisa Sahulka, and Browning Spence.

The applicants included: Charles Harris of Trenam Kemker; Colleen Flynn and E.D. Armstrong of Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP; Andrew Salzman of Zimmet, Unice, Salzman & Heyman, P.A.; and James Denhardt of James W. Denhardt. All of the applicants proposed hourly rates well below their standard rates, ranging from \$175 to \$250 per hour.

The Committee unanimously recommended Colleen Flynn and E.D. Armstrong of Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP. The Committee was impressed with the experience of the primary attorney, Ms. Flynn, and the extensive capabilities for specialized services that would be available from the firm. Ms. Flynn's proposed rate is \$210/hour, and Mr. Armstrong stated that rates for specialized services that might be needed would be negotiated at a lower than standard rate.

Board approval is sought for the Executive Director to negotiate a contract for legal services with the firm of Johnson, Pope, Bokor, Ruppel & Burns, LLP.