

**CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY OF MOUNT VERNON**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS
TO PROVIDE CONFLICT COUNSEL PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICES**

PURPOSE

The City of Burlington, Washington and the City of Mount Vernon, Washington (“Cities”) request statements of qualifications from attorneys experienced in providing Public Defender services for indigent criminal defendants. The Cities are seeking to contract with conflict attorneys to provide legal representation to defendants that are not able to be represented by its primary defender Mountain Law. Defendants will be represented at arraignment, pretrial hearings, trials or pleas and appeals from the municipal court of limited jurisdiction to superior court. It is anticipated that there will be between one hundred and one hundred and fifty cases per year that are represented by “conflict” counsel. The Cities will pay \$85 an hour to conflict counsel and a fixed amount, to be negotiated, as payment for travel time, for out of area travel time. The Cities will also pay for membership in the Washington Defender Association.

SCHEDULE

The Cities have an immediate need to recruit additional attorneys and/or firms that will provide misdemeanor and gross misdemeanor defense services. As such, **Statements of Qualifications will be accepted on a continual basis until the cities achieve sufficient capacity to provide said services.** Interviews of selected candidates will, if required, be scheduled as soon as possible. Following interviews, five candidates will be selected to negotiate contracts for provision of services. Although the duration of contract may vary, the Cities prefer to sign two year contracts.

SUBMITTAL PROCESS

Interested applicants should provide a resume, cover letter, solely authored writing sample, a list of the past year’s CLE’s or other trainings that relate to criminal defense, names of judges and opposing counsel in the last three cases that went to trial and any other information the applicant feels demonstrates his/her ability to provide vigorous and effective representation to clients.

Responses must be marked “Burlington and Mount Vernon Indigent Defense Qualifications” and be sent to Juan Farias, Public Defense Program Assistant, City of Burlington, 833 South Spruce Street, Burlington, WA 98233. Questions regarding this RFQ may be sent to juanf@burlingtonwa.gov.