CONTRACT FOR COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT COURT FINES AND FEES ASSESSED BY THE DISTRICT, COUNTY AND JUSTICE COURTS OF BRAZOS COUNTY, TEXAS

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STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF BRAZOS

THIS CONTRACT is made and entered into by and between the COUNTY OF BRAZOS, TEXAS, acting herein by and through its governing body, hereinafter styled, "County", and McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG AND ALLEN, P.C., hereinafter styled "MVBA".

I.

The County agrees to retain and does hereby retain MVBA to provide specific legal services provided herein and enforce the collection of delinquent district, county and justice court fines, fees, court costs, restitution, debts and accounts receivable and other amounts in accordance with Article 103.0031, Texas Code of Criminal Procedure (hereinafter referred to in the agreement as "Fines and Fees") pursuant to the terms and conditions described herein. Legal services shall include but not be limited to recommendations and legal advice to the County to take legal enforcement action; representing the County in any dispute or legal challenge to authority to collect such court fees and fines; defending the County in litigation or challenges of its collection authority; and representing the County in collection interests in bankruptcy matters as determined by MVBA or the County. The County further authorizes MVBA to execute all legal documents that are reasonably necessary to pursue collection of the County's claims in connection with the collection of fines and fees that are subject to this contract. This contract supersedes all prior oral and written contracts between the parties regarding court fees and fines, and can only be amended if done so in writing and signed by all parties. Furthermore, this contract cannot be transferred or assigned by either party without the written consent of all parties.

II.

For purposes of this contract all Fines and Fees shall be referred to MVBA when determined to be delinquent as provided for in Article 103.0031, Code of Criminal Procedure. At least once each month on a date or dates agreed upon by the parties, the County will provide MVBA with copies of, or access to, the information and documentation necessary to collect the delinquent fines and fees that are subject to this contract. The County shall furnish the information to MVBA by electronic transmission. The County shall be responsible for the receipting of the payment of all fines and fees collected pursuant to this contract whether received directly from the defendant or from MVBA.

III.

MVBA shall forward all cashier checks or money order payments made payable to the County and any correspondence from defendants directly to the County. Cashier checks or money order payments made payable to MVBA will be deposited daily into the MVBA Trust Account. MVBA may also collect the amount due from the defendant by credit card or electronic draft which is deposited directly into the MVBA Trust Account. MVBA shall remit to the Court all payments received into the MVBA Trust Account, weekly, along with an invoice detailing the docket number, name of defendant, amount paid to MVBA or Court, MVBA fee percentage and fees earned for each case.

IV.

MVBA shall indemnify and hold the County harmless from and against all liabilities, losses and/or costs arising from claims for damages, or suits for losses or damages, including reasonable costs and attorney's fees, which may arise as a result of MVBA's performance of the services described in this contract. The indemnity provision of this contract shall have no application to any claim or demand which results from the sole negligence or fault of the County, its officers, agents, employees or contractors. And furthermore, in the event of joint and/or shared negligence or fault of the County and MVBA, responsibility and indemnity, if any, shall be apportioned in accordance with Texas law and without waiving any defenses of either party. The provisions of this paragraph are intended for the sole benefit of the parties hereto and are not intended to create or grant any right, contractual or otherwise, to any other persons or entities.

V.

For the collection of Fines and Fees, the County agrees to pay to MVBA, as compensation for the professional services rendered the following fees:

- 1. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred before June 18, 2003, there is no fee due (0%) MVBA on the amount collected by the Court on those cases.
- 2. For those Fines and Fees imposed against Adjudicated Offenses regardless of the date of the offense, and against Unadjudicated Offenses that occurred on or after June 18, 2003, a fee of thirty percent (30%) of the amount of the Fines and Fees collected by the County as provided by Article 103.0031 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.
- 3. In the event any case is disposed of by acquittal or dismissal, or if the fine, costs and/or fees are discharged through performance of community service, credit for jail time served, the discretionary removal of a collection fee by the Court or pursuant to §45.0491 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, no compensation shall be paid to MVBA by the County.

All compensation shall become the property of MVBA at the time of payment. The County shall pay to MVBA said compensation on a monthly basis by check.

VI.

The County recognizes and acknowledges that MVBA owns all right, title and interest in certain proprietary software that MVBA may utilize in conjunction with performing the services provided in the contract. The County agrees and hereby grants to MVBA the right to use and incorporate any information provided by the County ("case or defendant information") to update the databases in this proprietary software, and, notwithstanding that the case or defendant information has been or shall be used to update the databases in this proprietary software, further stipulates and agrees that the County shall have no rights or ownership whatsoever in and to the software or the data contained therein, except that the County shall be entitled to obtain a copy of such data that directly relates to the County's accounts at any time.

MVBA agrees that it will not share or disclose any specific confidential case or defendant information with any other company, individual, organization or agency, without the prior written consent of the County, except as may be required by law or where such information is otherwise publicly available.

Contract for the Collection of Fines & Fees - Page 2 of 4

It is agreed that MVBA shall have the right to use case or defendant information for internal analysis, improving the proprietary software and database, and generating aggregate data and statistics that may inherently contain case and defendant information. These aggregate statistics are owned solely by MVBA and will generally be used internally, but may be shared with MVBA's affiliates, partners or other third parties for purposes of improving MVBA's software and services.

MVBA reserves the right to return to the County all accounts not collected within one (1) year of referral by the County, or identified as being in bankruptcy. Upon return of these accounts, neither party will have any obligation to the other party to this contract.

VII.

The initial term of this contract is **two (2) years, beginning on October 1, 2022 thru September 30, 2024 with an option to renew for an additional three (3) one (1) year periods in accordance with the same terms and conditions,** unless either party delivers written "Notice of Termination of Contract" to the other party of its intent to terminate this contract at least sixty (60) days prior to each anniversary date of this contract.

In the event that the County terminates this contract, MVBA shall be entitled to continue its collection activity on all accounts previously referred to MVBA for six (6) months from the date of receipt of the "Notice of Termination of Contract" and to payment of its fee, pursuant to Paragraph V of this contract for all amounts collected on accounts referred to MVBA. The County may, at its discretion, refer additional accounts to MVBA after notice of termination has been received by MVBA. At the end of the six (6) month period, all accounts shall be returned to the County by MVBA.

VIII.

For purposes of sending notice under the term of this contract, all notices from the County shall be sent to MVBA by certified United States mail to the following address:

McCreary, Veselka, Bragg & Allen, P.C. Attention: Keith Treadway P.O. Box 1310 Round Rock, Texas 78680-1310

or delivered by hand or by courier, and addressed to: 700 Jeffrey Way, Suite 100, Round Rock, Texas 78664-2425. All notices to the County shall be sent by certified United States mail or delivered by hand or courier, to the following address:

County of Brazos, Texas Attention: County Judge 200 S Texas, Suite 322 Bryan, Texas 77803

IX.

This contract is made and is to be interpreted under the laws of the State of Texas. Exclusive venue for any action, lawsuit, claim, dispute or another legal proceeding concerning or arising out of this contract shall be in Brazos County, Texas.

In the event that any provision(s) of this contract shall for any reason be held invalid or unenforceable, the invalidity or unenforceability of that provision(s) shall not affect any other provision(s) of this contract, and it shall further be construed as if the invalid or unenforceable provision(s) had never been a part of this contract.

Every provision of this Contract is intended to be severable. If any term or provision of this Contract is deemed to be invalid, void, or unenforceable for any reason by a District Court, to the extent possible such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect the validity of the remainder of this Contract, it being intended that such remaining provisions shall be construed in a manner most closely approximating the intention of the Parties with respect to the invalid, void, or unenforceable provision or part thereof. In accordance with the requirements of Chapter 2271, Texas Government Code, the signatory executing this Contract on behalf of MVBA does hereby verify that MVBA does not boycott Israel and will not boycott Israel during the term of this Contract.

X.

In consideration of the terms and compensation herein stated, MVBA hereby agrees to undertake performance of said contract as set forth above.

The County has authorized by order heretofore passed and duly recorded in its minutes the chief executive officer to execute this contract.

This contract may be executed in any number of counterparts, and each counterpart shall be deemed an original for all purposes. Signed facsimiles shall be binding and enforceable.

XI.

In addition to the terms and conditions that are contained in this contract, MVBA agrees to perform under this contract in accordance with the representations made in response to the Request for Proposal No. 23-008, Collection of Delinquent Criminal and Civil Court Costs, Fines, and Fees (RFP) issued by the Brazos County Commission Court on July 29, 2022. MVBA's response to the above-mentioned RFP is attached to the contract as Exhibit A, and is hereby incorporated into the terms of this contract.

WITNESS the signatures of all parties hereto this, the _____ day of ______, A.D. 2022.

COUNTY OF BRAZOS, TEXAS

County Judge

McCREARY, VESELKA, BRAGG & ALLEN, P.C.

Keith Treadway Attorney at Law