

**STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**RESOLUTION**

(Acceptance of Resignation-The Kallman Law Group)

At a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the County of Ottawa, Michigan (“Ottawa”), held at the County Building at 12220 Filmore Street in West Olive, Michigan on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of February 2025, at 9 o’clock a.m. local time.

PRESENT: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ABSENT: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

It was moved by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ and supported by Commissioner \_\_\_\_\_ that the following resolution be adopted.

**WHEREAS**, Ottawa has historically employed in-house Corporation Counsel;

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, 2023, the County terminated its long-term Corporation Counsel and hired the Kallman Group as Corporation Counsel;

**WHEREAS**, on February 21, 2025, the Kallman Group resigned as Corporation Counsel;

**WHEREAS**, Ron Bultje has over forty (40) years of municipal law experience and his firm, Dickinson Wright is currently retained as legal counsel by Ottawa through its Parks & Recreation Commission and by many other Michigan Counties;

**WHEREAS**, Ottawa now wishes to appoint and retain Ron Bultje and Dickinson Wright as interim Corporation Counsel effective immediately in order to assist Ottawa in selecting a permanent Corporation Counsel and provide traditional, experience municipal law services to Ottawa in the interim;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Ottawa accepts the resignation of the Kallman Group's services as Corporation Counsel, effective immediately;

2. The Agreement For Termination of Legal Services with The Kallman Group attached as Exhibit A, is approved;

3. With Ron Bultje as lead counsel, Dickinson Wright and its attorneys, agents and contractors is appointed interim Ottawa County Corporation Counsel to perform corporate legal services to Ottawa and its departments, funding units, departments and boards and commissioners until a permanent Corporation Counsel can be hired;

4. The Interim County Administrator, the Interim Deputy County Administrator, and the Human Resources Department are instructed and directed to post and advertise the employment opening of Ottawa County Corporation Counsel and with the Board Chairperson to initiate a candidate review process for the hiring of a full time Corporation Counsel;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all inconsistent resolutions and actions are

rescinded and repealed.

YEAS: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

NAYS: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

ABSTENTIONS: Commissioners: \_\_\_\_\_

**RESOLUTION ADOPTED:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
John Teeples, Chairperson  
Ottawa County Board of Commissioners

\_\_\_\_\_  
Justin F. Roebuck, Ottawa County  
Clerk

## **AGREEMENT FOR TERMINATION OF LEGAL SERVICES**

This Agreement, effective 02/21/2025, is between Ottawa County, Michigan (the “County”) and The Kallman Legal Group, PLLC, a Michigan professional corporation providing legal services (“the Firm”) (collectively the County and Firm shall be referred to as “the Parties”). This Agreement describes the terms and conditions for the termination of the provision of legal services to the County by the Firm and its attorneys.

**WHEREAS**, the County has historically employed an in-house Corporation Counsel;

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, 2023, the County hired the Firm to perform such legal services and has executed contracts with the Firm. (collectively, the “Contract”);

**WHEREAS**, the Firm hired Attorneys Jack Jordan and Lanae Monera to perform much of its legal services to the County;

**WHEREAS**, Jack Jordan and Lanae Monera performed all their services to the County through the Firm and have no legal or equitable relationship with the County directly;

**WHEREAS**, the County now wishes to return to the employee model of Corporation Counsel and terminate the Firm’s services under the Contract.

**WHEREFORE**, the Parties agree to the following:

1. The Kallman Legal Group’s services as Corporation Counsel are terminated effective immediately upon approval of a resolution to this effect by the County Board of Commissioners; the Firm shall immediately return any and all of the County’s papers, files, computer codes, security badges and any other property.
2. The firm will be available for consultation and other legal services up to a maximum of 24 hours/week (100 hrs. per month) until May 31, 2025 (the “Transition Period”).
3. Pursuant to paragraph 2, and as otherwise provided in this paragraph, the Firm will not bill for Legal Services during the “Transition Period”. The Firm may bill for legal services rendered, if any, at its standard hourly rate beyond 24 hours per week

(100 hrs. per month). The County will pay within thirty (30) days of its submission, the Firm's invoice for services in excess of the Contract's monthly minimum, if any, until the Transition Period concludes.

4. During the Transition Period the Firm shall report and be available only to the County's Interim Administrator and Deputy Administrator unless either instructs otherwise.

5. During the Transition Period, the Firm will provide to the County's Interim Administrator and Deputy Administrator a list of projects pending so as to facilitate a smooth transition by the end of that period. No Firm attorney will be physically present at the County's offices unless requested by the County.

6. The parties waive all claims for any prior payments made to the Firm by the County and unpaid invoices owing to the Firm for the year 2025.

7. The parties release and hold harmless any claims against each other regarding legal services to the County, between January 3, 2023, and the end of the Transition Period, including but not limited to malpractice, breach of contract, intentional tort or negligence, whether such claims could be pursued administratively or in a court of law.

8. This Agreement contains the complete expression of the Parties' understanding and any and all oral or written contracts, including but not limited to the Contract, are merged herein. This Agreement can only be modified by a writing, properly approved and executed by both Parties.

**THE KALLMAN LEGAL GROUP, PLLC    OTTAWA COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

By:   
David Kallman, Manager

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Teeples, Chairperson

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gary Rosema, Interim Administrator



# Ronald A. Bultje

Member | GRAND RAPIDS

Email: [rbultje@dickinsonwright.com](mailto:rbultje@dickinsonwright.com) Phone: 616-336-1007 Fax: 844-670-6009

Ronald Bultje is a Member in Dickinson Wright's Grand Rapids office. His practice is concentrated in the areas of municipal law and labor relations. He represents numerous municipalities throughout the western half of Michigan's lower peninsula. He has extensive experience in advising legislative bodies, planning commissions, and zoning boards of appeal. In representing municipalities, Mr. Bultje provides a full array of services, including advice on contracts, intergovernmental relations, land transfers, governmental powers and authority, land use and zoning, utilities, millage matters, the Open Meetings Act, and the Freedom of Information Act. He also has participated in collective bargaining negotiations, unfair labor practice hearings, arbitration hearings, and unemployment hearings. Ronald has also provided counsel to municipalities and private sector employers regarding fair employment practices.

## Prominent Assignments

Handled a Michigan Supreme Court case, *Ottawa County v. Jaklinski*, 423 Mich 1 (1985), which established that discharge grievances which arise after the expiration of a collective bargaining agreement are not subject to the grievance process in the expired agreement.

Handled a Michigan Court of Appeals case, *Miller v. Grand Haven Board of Education*, 151 Mich App 412 (1986), which established that in cases of teacher misconduct, a school board does not need to show detrimental effect suffered by students in order to discipline a teacher.

## Areas Of Practice

- Government Affairs
- Government Contracts
- Labor & Employment
- Public Finance

## Education & Credentials

### Education

#### University of Michigan Law School

J.D., 1978

- *cum laude*

#### Calvin College

B.A., 1976

### Bar Admission

Michigan

## Acknowledgements

- *Grand Rapids Magazine*
  - "Top Lawyers," Municipal Law, 2020
- *Best Lawyers in America®*
  - Municipal Law, 2023-2024
  - "Lawyer of the Year," Municipal Law, 2014
- *Martindale-Hubbell®* AV Rating

## Community Involvement

- Grand Haven Christian School Board of Education, Past President
- TCM Counseling Board of Directors, Past Board Member
- Tri-Cities Family YMCA, Past President
- American Cancer Society, Past Board Member
- Ottawa County Planning Department, Annual planning and zoning presentations

## Publications/Presentations

- Presenter, Planning & Zoning Fundamentals, Ottawa County, 1990's - 2021