



J Haskins Law, PA
1305 Barnard St # 856
Savannah, GA 31401
jesse@jhaskins.law
(727) 371-9730

ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

J Haskins Law, PA (“J Haskins Law”) and _____ (“Client”) enter into the following Engagement Agreement.

CLIENT’S GOALS

Client has engaged J Haskins Law to represent Client in a defamation lawsuit.

SCOPE OF WORK

The scope of work includes all civil trial court proceedings at the state level that are necessary to pursue Client’s Goals. This scope of work is limited solely to one plaintiff versus one defendant. If other parties are joined or intervene, fees assessed to Client may increase. Fees may also increase if this matter is transferred to a federal court. The work of J Haskins Law under this agreement ends at jury trial or decision by the trial court.

This Engagement Agreement does not cover post-verdict or post-judgment activities, including motions for judgment notwithstanding the verdict, motions to reconsider, direct appeals, or collateral attacks on the decision of the trial court.

FEES DUE TO J HASKINS LAW

J Haskins Law will collect an initial fee of **\$6,500** to cover third-party expenses and legal fees summarized in the table below. Client will maintain a balance of at least \$3,000 to cover future legal expenses. If tasks or a number of related tasks require an amount greater than this minimum, Client is responsible for payment of these tasks prior to the time in which tasks are considered earned.

The table below states the fixed fee for specific individual tasks that are typically performed in the course of a lawsuit. Tasks in which the unit appears as “filing” indicates that there may be additional fees associated with hearings and other activity arising from a written filing. For example, filing a response to motion to dismiss (\$2,000) may also require a hearing (an additional \$2,000) and perhaps a proposed order (\$500), meaning that a \$4,500 may be incurred in connection with a motion to dismiss, in addition to other fees incurred in the course of a lawsuit. On the same motion, it is possible that local court rules or judge’s preferences require a conferral with the opposing party (\$200).

Task	Cost	Unit	When Earned
Adversary Calls & Emails	\$200	Phone Call/Email	Start of Drafting/ Preparation of Email
Initial Complaint	\$4,000		Start of Drafting
Amendments to Pleadings, including motion to amend if necessary	\$2,000		Start of Drafting
Proposed Order	\$500	Submission	Start of Drafting
Response to Motion to Dismiss, Motion to Strike	\$2,000	Filing	Start of Drafting



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Counterclaims—excludes anti-slapp			
Answer And Affirmative Defenses (excludes counterclaims)	\$4,000	Filing	Start of Drafting
Hearings and Case Management Conferences, including preparation and client communication necessary to preparation	\$2,000	Appearance	Five Calendar Days Prior to Hearing
Client Communication not otherwise listed	\$350.00/hr		
Discovery Response Review and document review of other records (e.g. public records responses, evidence and materials provided by Client)	\$40	5 Pages, Rounded Up	
Preparation of Written Discovery Requests to Opposing Party (excludes subpoenas) – excludes motions and responses to motions	\$1,500	Once per party per lawsuit	Start of Drafting
Preparation of Responses to Written Discovery Requests By Opposing Party – Excludes motions and responses to motions	\$4,000	Once per party per lawsuit	
Conducting Depositions, Including Preparation	\$4,500	Appearance	Five Calendar Days Prior to Hearing
Defending Depositions (excludes motions)	\$2,500	Appearance	
Trial (Nonjury)	\$15,000	Appearance	Thirty Days Prior to Trial
Trial (Jury)	\$25,000	Appearance	Thirty Days Prior to Trial
Nonadversarial Party Calls (e.g., cooperating witness)	\$30	Phone Call/Email	Start of Drafting/ Preparation of Email
Discovery Motions and Responses to Motions (e.g. motion to compel, motion for protective order)	\$3,200	Filing	Start of Drafting
Reply in support of discovery motion, motion for summary judgment, or other motion	\$2,700	Filing	Start of Drafting



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Motion for Summary Judgement (may be less depending on complexity)	\$6,300	Filing	Start of Drafting
Response to Motion for Summary Judgement (may be less depending on complexity)	\$6,300	Filing	Start of Drafting
Reply in Support of Motion for Summary Judgment	\$3,000	Filing	Start of Drafting
Motion for Judgement on Pleadings	\$3,500	Filing	Start of Drafting
Subpoena Preparation (excludes technical subpoenas for ESI and data)	\$700	Subpoena	Start of Drafting
Informal Settlement	\$2000	Once per Lawsuit	Commencement of Communication
All Anti-SLAPP motions & responses (motions include replies for anti-SLAPP only)	\$7,000	Filing	Start of drafting
Mediation	\$3,000	Mediation	Five Calendar Days Prior to Mediation
Proposal for Settlement	\$250	Filing	Start of Drafting
Presuit Notice	\$800		
Review for Errata	\$50	5 pages, rounded up	Review of deposition transcript
Motions for Sanctions, responses to motions for sanctions (e.g. section 57.105, Florida Statutes; court's inherent authority)	\$3,500	Filing or Service, whichever comes sooner	Start of Drafting
Motions to Strike, Responses to motions to strike	\$2,000	Filing	Start of Drafting
Motions to Reconsider	\$2,000	Filing	Start of Drafting
Emergency Motions	\$3,500	Filing	Start of Drafting
Events Not Listed in Menu	\$450/hour		

Client shall prepay in advance for all tasks listed above. Client may terminate payments only when one of the five following events occur: 1) the court enters an order closing Client's case, 2) Plaintiff voluntarily dismisses the case in a manner consistent with the Florida Rules of Civil Procedure, 3) Client terminates representation as set forth below, or 4) the court enters an order permitting the withdrawal of J Haskins Law. J Haskins Law has the right to cease legal work if Client does not make timely payments.



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This Agreement is not effective until Client pays the initial fee of **\$6,500**. J Haskins Law will not commence work until receipt of the initial fee in full.

If Client pays third party expenses by credit card, client will incur the processing fee of 2.8%. Payment may be made using Visa, Mastercard, electronic checks, or paper checks. J Haskins Law does not accept American Express.

Client may also become liable for attorney fees incurred by the opposing party.

CONTINGENT HOURLY RATE

If attorney's fees are awarded against Client, Client is responsible for the fees of opposing counsel.

If Client prevails in the above-referenced action, J. Haskins Law PA may seek to collect hourly fees directly from adverse parties at a reasonable market rate. If J Haskins Law PA collects from adverse parties' fees an amount equal or greater than the flat fees earned under the schedule set forth above, J Haskins Law will return fees paid by Client.

TERMINATION OF REPRESENTATION

Client may terminate representation at any time, subject to the obligations of J Haskins Law under the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct and court orders if this matter is in litigation. Unless previously terminated, our representation will terminate upon completion of the legal services described in this agreement subject to the obligations of J Haskins Law under the Florida Rules of Professional Conduct and court orders. Client understands that J Haskins Law has no continuing obligation to represent Client unless Client retains J Haskins Law to provide additional advice or services. If Client terminates representation, Client will cooperate with J Haskins Law in submitting necessary filings to the Court.

If Client either terminates legal services or J Haskins Law withdraw, Client remains responsible for payment of fees earned under this Agreement.

WITHDRAWAL

J Haskins Law may withdraw from representation for failure of Client to cooperate, failure to pay, dishonesty, or irreconcilable differences. If J Haskins Law withdraws, J Haskins Law will give Client reasonable notice to secure other counsel, and Client agrees to execute any documents necessary to complete the withdrawal.

ATTORNEY'S OBLIGATIONS

Attorney Jesse Haskins owes a duty of loyalty to Client. Attorney Jesse Haskins also owes a duty of candor and other ethical obligations to the Court. As a result, Client may not instruct Attorney Jesse Haskins to engage in any conduct that would be inconsistent with his professional responsibilities. Client may not, for example, instruct J Haskins Law to present Client's case in a dishonest manner, or engage in tactics that may appear calculated to harass, punish opposing parties, or cause unnecessary delay.



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With respect to client communication, scope of work included in this engagement agreement is limited to a reasonable level of client communication, as set forth in the rules of professional conduct

CLIENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

J Haskins Law cannot effectively represent you without your cooperation and assistance. You agree to cooperate fully with us and to provide promptly all information known or available to you that is relevant to representation. Your obligations include timely providing requested information and documents, assisting in discovery, disclosure and trial preparation, cooperating in scheduling and related matters, responding timely to telephone calls and correspondence, and informing J Haskins Law of changes to your contact information.

Further, Client understands that to retain the attorney-client privilege, Client cannot disclose all or part of Client's written or oral communications with J Haskins Law to any third party.

USE OF LEGAL ASSISTANT

J Haskins Law uses legal assistants and/or paralegals to assist in the preparation of certain documents.

USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Our firm leverages advanced artificial intelligence (AI) technology to enhance our legal services while maintaining our commitment to quality and confidentiality. We want to be transparent about how we use this technology to benefit you.

How We Use AI to Serve You Better

Think of AI as a sophisticated digital assistant that helps us work more efficiently on your behalf. Just as we might use legal research databases to find relevant cases, we use AI to help us draft documents and analyze legal information more quickly. This allows us to focus more time on the strategic and nuanced aspects of your case while keeping costs reasonable.

For example, when preparing court documents or client communications, we may use AI to:

- Create initial drafts based on established legal frameworks.
- Identify potential legal issues that require attention.
- Organize complex information in a clear, structured way.
- Generate explanations of legal concepts in plain language.

In fact, this explanation itself was generated using AI technology and reviewed by our legal team, providing a practical example of how we utilize AI to create clear, effective client communications.

Quality Control and Professional Oversight

While AI helps us work more efficiently, every AI-generated document goes through rigorous human review. Our attorneys personally review, edit, and refine all AI-assisted work to ensure it meets our high professional standards and precisely addresses your specific situation. We treat AI as a tool to enhance our services, not replace professional judgment.



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Confidentiality and Security

We utilize various technological tools in our practice, including but not limited to Claude, MyCase, and LexisNexis, which may incorporate generative artificial intelligence technology. We have carefully reviewed the privacy policies of these vendors to ensure they maintain appropriate confidentiality standards for legal practice. Your confidential information remains protected, just as it would with any other legal tool we use.

Cost Benefits

By strategically using AI, we can often complete routine legal tasks more quickly while maintaining high quality. This efficiency typically translates to lower costs for you, as we can spend less time on initial drafts and more time on the sophisticated legal analysis and strategy that directly benefit your case.

Our Commitment

We believe in combining the best of traditional legal practice with innovative tools that can benefit our clients. Our use of AI is always in service of providing you with more effective, efficient, and affordable legal representation while maintaining the highest standards of professional service and confidentiality.

Your questions about our use of AI are always welcome. We're happy to discuss how this technology helps us serve you better while maintaining the personal attention and professional judgment you expect from your legal counsel.

VIRTUAL SERVICES

Consultations with J Haskins law will be conducted telephonically or by video teleconference. Phone calls and videoconference calls may be recorded to supplement or replace the note taking needs of J Haskins Law, and to ensure quality client service. Client consents to the recording of video teleconferences and phone calls. If Client requests an office visit or in person court appearance, an additional charge will be assessed.

Client agrees that J Haskins Law may represent Client in all hearings and trials telephonically, unless the Court orders otherwise. Client may not object to J Haskins Law requesting to appear telephonically on behalf of Client.

J Haskins Law maintains a paperless office. This means that Client should transmit documents either electronically or send copies of documents. At the conclusion of representation, J Haskins Law will destroy documents, rather than return them. Accordingly, Client should not send original documents to J Haskins Law.

SETTLEMENT

J Haskins Law will not enter into a settlement without your consent.

NO GUARANTEE OF OUTCOME



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Client understands and agrees that litigation is uncertain. J Haskins Law makes no promises or guarantees about case outcomes.

CLIENT DISPUTES AND ARBITRATION

From time to time, J Haskins Law may at its sole discretion reduce the amount of legal fees that it is entitled to. However, if Client disputes the fee amount in any forum including but not limited to chargebacks, alternative dispute resolution, or a judicial forum, such voluntary reduction of fees may be rescinded. Further, Client agrees to arbitration of any fee disputes with the Florida Bar fee arbitration program. Client waives the right to resolve any fee dispute by a judge or jury.

Notice: This agreement contains provisions requiring arbitration of fee disputes. Before you sign this agreement, you should consider consulting with another attorney about the advisability of making an agreement with mandatory arbitration requirements. Arbitration proceedings are ways to resolve disputes without use of the court system. By entering into agreements that require arbitration as the way to resolve fee disputes, you give up (waive) your right to go to court to resolve those disputes by judge or jury. These are important rights that should not be give up without careful consideration.