

Response to the Request for Qualifications Prepared for the  
Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency

Legal Services  
RFQ 10-27-21-2

Proposer:  
**Pittman Law Group, P.L.**

Contact Person:  
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May 3, 2021

PITTMAN LAW GROUP, P.L.

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## LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

May 3, 2021

Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency  
2001 Broadway, Suite #300  
Riviera Beach, FL 33404  
Attn: Sherly Desir

Dear Selection Committee,

For the past twenty years Pittman Law Group, P.L. (PLG) has proudly represented the interests of numerous public entities and local governments throughout the state and region. Given our experience and our proven methodology in providing legal services, we believe that we can best serve as General Counsel to the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (RBCRA). Upon review of our legal experience, we hope you find that our team will provide value to the Community Redevelopment Agency Board (CRA Board).

### ***FIRM HISTORY***

Founded in 2001, Pittman Law Group, P.L. (PLG) is a boutique law firm that provides valued expertise to our clients in the areas of redevelopment law, general municipal law, special district law, general state and federal laws, real estate law, Sunshine Law, public records law, contract law, and intergovernmental rules and regulations. With almost fifty years of combined experience, PLG's attorneys utilize their legal and governmental expertise to provide effective legal counsel to corporations, local governments, and not-for-profit associations.

As a small law firm, we have remained committed to taking the time to provide the highest quality service to those we represent. We have created a culture of excellent and timely service, that maximizes the experience of our attorneys to meet the evolving needs of our clients. We have built a strong reputation by being fierce advocates for their issues in both the Capitol and the courtroom. This is especially beneficial for our government law clients as our policy work informs our understanding and interpretation of relevant laws and regulations.

PLG's attorneys strive to provide the ultimate standard of representation in a responsive, efficient, and effective manner. Our attorneys quickly analyze issues and advise our clients on appropriate strategies and have a breadth of experience fulfilling the services outlined in this proposal. Thanks to our diverse legal experience, we will successfully provide the following services to the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA Board):

- legal advice and counsel in matters relating to the official duties of the CRA Board;
- service in meetings;
- legal opinions, memoranda, and position papers on issues;
- statutory and rule interpretation;
- legal research and analysis;
- contract drafting and review;
- litigation;
- drafting and revising ordinances, resolutions, contracts, easements, and other legal documents;
- counsel on grants, budgets, bonds, acquisition and disposition of land, tax increment collection, appropriateness of expenditures, public disclosure issues, land leases, purchasing and procurement, and redevelopment;
- preparing and reviewing contracts, bonds, and other official instruments; and
- counsel on constitutional and state laws which govern RBCRA and the interplay between state and local law.

### ***FIRM CLIENTS***

Pittman Law Group's footprint can be seen throughout the state with offices in Tallahassee, Miami, and the Palm Beaches. PLG's diverse client list spans across both public and private entities, providing general counsel and government relations representation to local governments, transportation network companies, hospitals, nursing homes, public universities, telecommunications providers, insurance providers, and public utilities companies.

#### **Current and Recent Public Clients**

Broward County Government
Central Florida Regional Transportation Authority (LYNX)
Citizens for a Better Tomorrow, Inc.
City of Belle Glade
City of Gretna
City of Miami
City of Orlando
City of Port Orange
City of Riviera Beach
City of Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency
City of Royal Palm Beach
City of Tallahassee

Florida A&M University
Florida State University Student Government Association (SGA)
Florida Student Association
Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners
Gadsden County Sheriff's Office
Leon County Code Enforcement Board
Leon County Sheriff's Office
Martin County Board of County Commissioners
Miami-Dade County
Northwest Florida State College
Palm Beach County
Town of Mangonia Park
Village of Royal Palm Beach

## Current and Recent Private Clients

Ashbritt Environmental
Associated Industries of Florida
Bellsouth/AT&T
Boca Bay DUI School
Florida Beer Wholesalers Association
Florida Crystals
Florida Health Care Association
Florida Hospital Association
Florida Medical Association
Florida Power and Light Company
Hackney Nursery
Hospital Corporation of America
Investment Corporation of Palm Beach
Lakeland Regional Health Systems

MWH Global, Inc
Northwest Florida Business Investment Corp.
PCI Gaming
Reynolds, Smith and Hills
Richard S. Bernstein & Associates
TECO Energy
Trulieve
Uber Technologies, Inc, and Associates
United Bank of Switzerland
United States Sugar Corporation
Verizon
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc
Waste Management, Inc

## KEY PERSONNEL

PLG boasts a team of adroit legal minds that possess a depth of knowledge and high-level proficiency across several practice areas. Our attorneys are leaders in their respective areas of practice and exhibit a commitment to their profession and communities in which they serve. Each of PLG's attorneys is licensed to practice law in the State of Florida and is in good standing with the Florida Bar.

As a certified minority business enterprise at the state and local levels, our firm showcases a distinct quality: a commitment to diversity. Beyond the requirements needed to qualify as a minority business, we also pride ourselves in the diversity of our attorneys' backgrounds, experiences, knowledge, and legal skills. Attorney Smith, Attorney Pittman, and Attorney McKinney-Williams each bring their own distinct aptitude and it is because our firm values the contributions to be made from a range of legal minds that we will be able to satisfy the ongoing legal needs of the CRA Board.

### Chris L. Smith

Attorney Chris Smith garnered his expertise in governmental affairs when he was elected to the Florida House of Representative in 1998. In his third term he was elected Democratic Leader of the Florida House of Representatives. After being term limited out of the House of Representatives, Sen. Smith was elected to the Florida Senate in 2008 representing Broward and Palm Beach County. In only the third year of his first term he was once again elected Democratic Leader of his chamber. This accomplishment of serving as Democratic Leader of the House and Senate has only been done by a few members of these August bodies.

Attorney Smith now represents a range of government affairs clients and specializes in redevelopment law, general municipal law, special district law, contract law, and intergovernmental rules and regulations.

Attorney Smith has received many awards including, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) Legislative Champion of Justice, Legislator of the Year from the American Jewish Congress, Humanitarian Award from the Young Democrats and many more. Senator Smith is a graduate of Johnson C. Smith University, in Charlotte North Carolina and the Florida State University College of Law.

### **Opal McKinney-Williams**

Opal McKinney-Williams has extensive experience working with local governments in the areas of administrative and regulatory law and compliance. For sixteen years, Opal worked closely with education-focused governmental entities on a variety of education related matters. Opal also advises on election law and campaign finance compliance. Opal's relevant experience includes successfully defending local governments against alleged violations of the sunshine law and the public records act, in rule challenges and administrative disputes challenging their legislative authority (whether derived through home rule or delegated), and in redistricting litigation. Opal is a proud graduate of both Florida State University, where she received her JD in 2002, and Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, magna cum laude, in 1998. She is admitted to practice in the state of Florida, is Board Certified in Education Law, and is admitted to practice in federal court.

### **Sean Pittman**

Senior Attorney and Managing Partner, Sean Pittman, founded PLG after building a resume as Staff Attorney to the Florida House of Representatives and Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations, and Legislative Director to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles. As a local government lawyer, Sean represents Florida counties and municipalities before the Florida Cabinet, Florida Legislature, and other tribunals. As an administrative lawyer, Sean has a strong understanding of the Florida Administrative Procedures Act, advising clients on matters before the Department of Administrative Hearings and various State of Florida boards and agencies. Sean also provides counsel to local government clients on issues including, but not limited to, Public Finance Law, Public Records Laws, Zoning Regulations, Growth Management, and Economic Development. Sean received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1990 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1994 from the Florida State University College of Law.

### ***HOW WE CAN BE OF SERVICE***

Our firm can immediately begin providing services to the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency. Upon engagement with the Authority, Attorney Smith will meet with the designated staff and board members to understand the RBCRA's day-to-day litigation needs. Attorney Smith will workshop with the RBCRA to identify ongoing litigation, lawsuits, upcoming procurements, outstanding contracts, and relationships with contracts, vendors, etc.

Based upon the provided information, Attorney Smith will build a strategy that includes frequent and on-going communication and attendance at all appropriate meetings that leverages the unique expertise of each attorney to meet the RBCRA's immediate and long terms goals. Attorney Smith will also analyze the opportunities for potential improvements and efficiency measures.

Attorney Smith or one of our members will be available to the authority, as needed, to participate in meetings with the CRA Board. We will meet often to ensure full communication and if a question arises, we will provide guidance to the staff to issue a resolution. At times, Attorney Smith may delegate matters to other attorneys and staff. However, he will be dedicated to oversight and accountability.

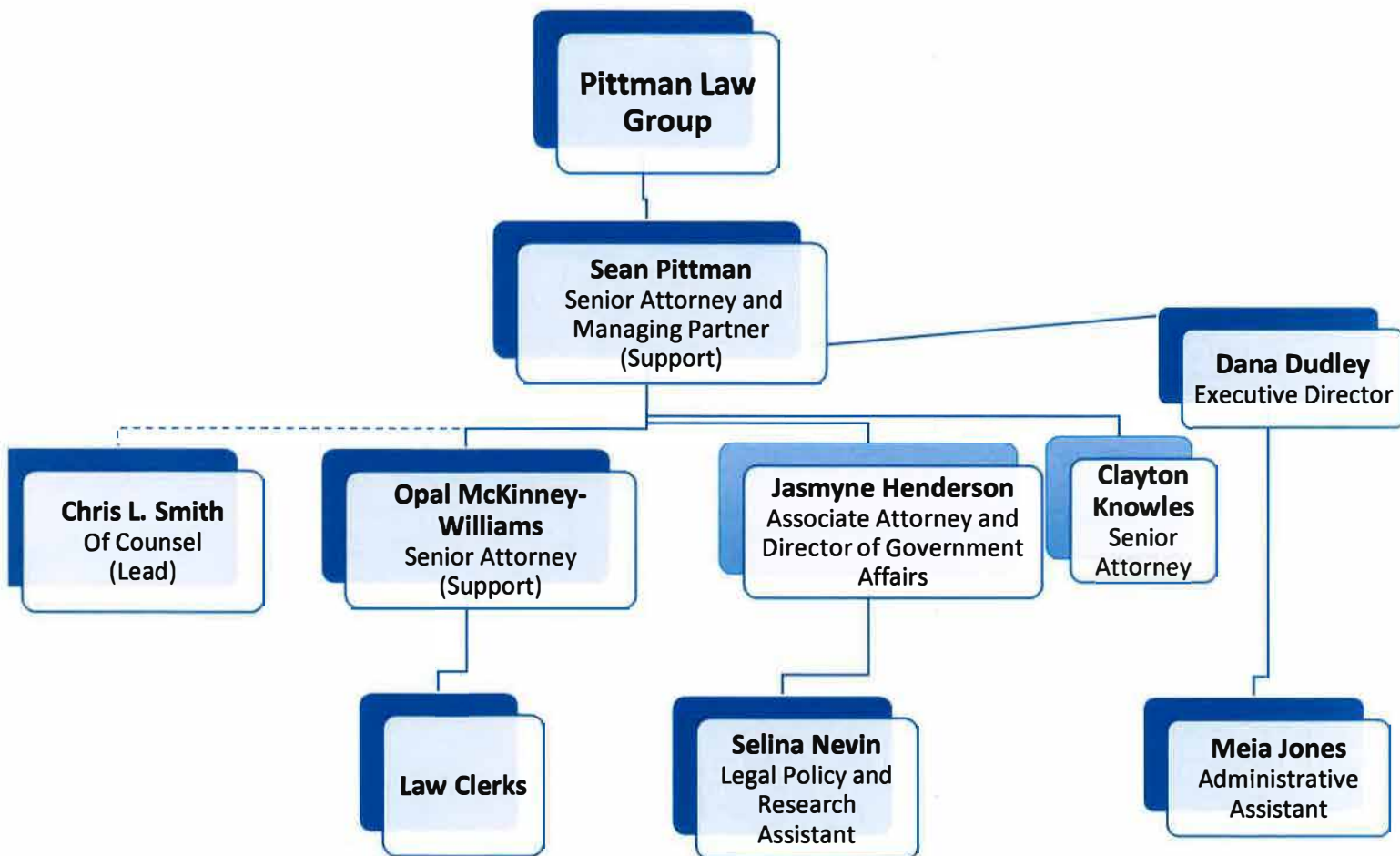
Our learned legal strategies provide invaluable experience to our clients. We strive to provide excellent representation and ensure our clients accomplish their goals. As such, we are proactive in our approach to the legal research, contract drafting, litigation needs, document review, and any other legal service the CRA Board might need.

We have been comprehensive in outlining our background and experience in the following pages of our proposal; however, if there are any questions on how we will bring value in providing legal services to the CRA Board, please do not hesitate to contact our Managing Partner, Sean Pittman at [sean@pittman-law.com](mailto:sean@pittman-law.com) or call (850) 216-1002. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pittman Law Group, P.L.

## ORGANIZATIONAL CHART FOR RIVIERA BEACH CRA PROJECT





## QUALIFICATIONS

Pittman Law Group, P.L. has the privilege of working with public entities throughout the state. We understand that privilege comes with a duty to provide unique and cost-effective solutions to our clients' legal needs. One of the benefits of our firm's representation is that we understand the importance of public investment in the communities in which we serve, and as such, our attorneys work vigorously to achieve successful outcomes while fiercely guarding public resources.

We have experience in a number of practice areas that enable us to provide day to day legal representation to the CRA Board. Members of our firm have served as staff and counsel to governmental agencies at the state and local levels. Our firm is well versed in all areas of government operation and government law. Our clients rely heavily upon our experience to guide them through difficult and complex legal situations.

While our firm is quickly growing, we make an effort to maintain a small law firm mentality, by taking the time to learn our client's individual needs. Our strength is built upon that level of service as well as our attorneys' remaining at the forefront of legal issues. Our attorneys regularly complete continuing legal education courses in the practice areas in which they serve.

## EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER PUBLIC ENTITIES

**Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners** - As Gadsden County does not have in-house counsel, our attorneys provide day-to-day legal representation on all legal matters for the Board. The firm has represented the Board of County Commission in meetings and in litigation; advised the Board, Planning Commission, Tourism Development Council, and county staff on a variety of matters; and drafted ordinances, resolutions, contracts, easements, and other legal documents. Further, we use our public administration and governmental relations experience to draft and interpret ordinances, codes, and charter issues.

Recently, our work with the County has expanded to manage the impact of COVID-19. We provide memorandums on the Governor's Executive Orders, counsel on the regulations surrounding the use of CARES Act funding, attend weekly emergency meetings, and manage the issues that disproportionately impact rural counties including affordable housing, unemployment, and lack of access to services.

As it relates to CARES Act disbursement, we have weighed in on issues related to the Gadsden County State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) Program. Florida Housing administers the SHIP Program by providing approximately \$350,000.00 in grant funds to the County to assist residents in obtaining and/or preserving affordable homeownership. In this capacity, our firm has assisted the SHIP coordinator, staff and residents with emergency repairs from Hurricane Michael, along with assisting the CDBG/SHIP coordinator with new construction and other home preservation measures. We also support the County's rental assistance program through CARES Act funding where we are often asked to provide input on allowable uses of funds in light of Federal regulations.

The scope of our representation has provided us the opportunity to litigate on a diverse set of issues. We were asked to serve as counsel in litigation where we successfully defended an attack on the county's mask ordinance. Our firm was also tasked with defending a lawsuit regarding a statute written regarding the statutory analysis of burial laws.

**Tallahassee Municipal Code Enforcement Board** - The City of Tallahassee's Municipal Code Enforcement Board is a quasi-judicial body that oversees the City's effort to remove blight and ensure compliance with the relevant portions of the Land Development Code, City Ordinances and the International Property Maintenance Code. In representing the Board, our attorneys were responsible for tendering general legal advice to the Board.

**Leon County Code Enforcement Board** - Leon County's Code Enforcement Board operates as a separate legal entity from the City's Municipal Code Enforcement Board. The County's Board is tasked with hearing code cases which derive from Leon County. In capacity as Board Attorney our attorneys not only provided the Board with legal opinions and advice during meetings but also represented the Board in civil proceedings related to delegation of authority, quasi-judicial board proceedings, and board rights and responsibilities.

**Tallahassee/Leon County Board of Adjustment and Appeals (BOAA)** - The BOAA is responsible for conducting hearings on appeals and variances. The Board Attorney reviews staff reports and assists the Board Chair in making findings of fact by providing conclusions of law to make a determination on the requested appeal or variance. Our firm represented the Board in civil proceedings to determine the validity of board actions when appealed to the Circuit Court as set forth in the applicable sections of Florida Statutes.

**Broward County** - Our firm has worked with counties and municipalities to provide opinion on validity of bonds including whether the government is authorized to issue bonds and has met all legal and procedural requirements necessary for issuance. We also provide counsel on whether the bonds were validly issued, the enforceability of certain security provisions, authorizing resolutions, bond contracts, official statements, and validation proceedings and litigation.

**City of Jacob** - The City of Jacob is located in Jackson County, FL. Working as the City Attorney firm for the City of Jacob, we spearheaded Jacob's effort to revise their comprehensive plan, increase their millage rate and draft and submit appropriations request to the Florida Legislature. Jacob is also home to a \$70,000,000 solar farm owned and operated by NextEra Energy (via Gulf Power). We assisted the City Commission and staff with managing issues associated with the construction that affected and impacted the City. We were tasked with providing guidance and legal opinions for the City's Florida Recreation Development Assistance Program (FRDAP) Grant applications and the Community Development Block Grant program to revitalize homes destroyed or damaged within the community by Hurricane Michael.

**Leon County School Board** - In support of the School Board members, Attorney McKinney-Williams provides legal counsel to the Board on all legal matters that pertain to board members' duties. Additionally, Opal reviews all contracts and agreements and provides periodic training to employees on legal topics important to the district.

**Trial Experience** - The attorneys at PLG have extensive litigation experience representing and participating in State courts in Florida and Federal Courts in Florida and Georgia. PLG's trial preparation approach involves first, providing the client with a trial plan which specifically sets forth the pertinent details of the trial. This information includes an evaluation of the scheduled trial dates, anticipated witnesses/experts, trial budget and possible verdicts. Additionally, PLG will analyze the prospect of settlement before trial and the status of any outstanding motions and the likelihood of pre-trial motions (e.g. – motions in limine). PLG also evaluates the need for experts, when they are expected to testify, and the substance of their testimony.

**Mediation Results** - The attorneys at Pittman Law Group have attended numerous mediations during their combined 50 years of experience. The firm has mediated cases ranging from small tort claims (<\$50,000.00) to multi-million-dollar lawsuits for both Plaintiffs and Defendants.

- 2019 Leon County Mediation – Initial Claim - \$250,000 – Settled in Defendant's favor for payment of \$94,000 to Defendant
- 2019 Leon County Mediation – Initial Claim \$500,000 – Settled for \$50,000
- 2019 Leon County Mediation – Favorable result to client
- 2018 Hillsborough County Mediation – Initial Claim \$65,000 – Settled for \$25,000
- 2017 Leon County Mediation – Initial Claim - \$650,000 – Settled in Defendant's favor for \$65,000
- 2017 Pinellas County Mediation – Initial Claim - \$35,000 – Action dismissed with prejudice by Plaintiff with no payment by Defendant and Defendant retained \$25,000 in retainage/escrowed funds held by Defendant for Plaintiff.
- 2015 Mediation – Initial Claim - \$500,000 – Settled for \$350,000
- 2013 Mediation – Settled in Plaintiff's favor for policy limits.

## INDIVIDUALS' QUALIFICATIONS

### **ATTORNEY CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH**

Christopher "Chris" Smith is a native Floridian born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in Broward County. He is a 1992 graduate of Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte North Carolina and 1995 graduate of the Florida State University College of Law. Chris began his legal career with the firm of Tripp Scott from the years 1994 to 1998 practicing in Land Use and Contract Law. He then practiced with the firm of Johnson Anselmo et al. from 1998 until 2016 where his practice included defending Governmental and Private Corporate Entities, including their employees, as well as numerous police agencies in actions brought in State and Federal Courts located in Broward, Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. The defense included local governmental entities and boards, as well as litigating numerous and varied cases, including police liability, employment discrimination, civil rights actions, EEOC claims, professional liability, employment discrimination, employer liability, utility liability, personal injury and premises liability.

Senator Chris Smith began his public service in 1995 when he was appointed to the City's Planning and Zoning Board. At a time of tremendous development within the City of Fort Lauderdale, Sen. Smith fought to seek a balance between the need for economic development and the rights of existing property or homeowners.

In 1996, Chris founded the Ft. Lauderdale, FL Community Redevelopment Association and was Chairman of that organization until 2000. In 1998 Sen. Smith was elected to the Florida House of Representatives serving the City of Fort Lauderdale and six surrounding municipalities. In his third term he was elected Democratic Leader of the Florida House of Representatives. After being term limited out of the House of Representatives, Sen. Smith was elected to the Florida Senate in 2008 representing Broward and Palm Beach County. After redistricting, Sen. Smith represented 14 municipalities in Central Broward County. In only the third year of his first term he was once again elected Democratic Leader of his chamber. This accomplishment of serving as Democratic Leader of the House and Senate has only been done by a few members of these august bodies. As a Democratic Leader, Sen. Smith once again was effective in setting policy on local and statewide issues.

From 2017 through 2019 Chris served as Legislative Counsel to the Broward Legislative Delegation. His principal responsibilities included ensuring the efficient operation of the legal responsibilities of the Delegation. In this role, Chris also researched, analyzed, and drafted local legislation incorporating appropriate policies which, when enacted, enabled state and local governments to carry out its functions. He provided legal analyses of local bills presented to the Delegation and acted as the Delegation's legal representative at meetings of interest groups and consultative bodies to provide information and explanations of existing and proposed legislation. In 2021, Chris joined the Pittman Law Group, P.L. to assist in their local government legal practice, focusing on South Florida municipalities.

Sen. Smith has discussed Florida law and politics on many national and local programs such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR, Jim DeFede Show, Michael Putney Show and numerous other media outlets. Senator Smith has received many awards including, the Florida Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers (FACDL) Legislative Champion of Justice, Legislator of the Year from the American Jewish Congress, Humanitarian Award from the Young Democrats and many more.

He was consistently rated by the *Miami Herald* and the *South Florida Sun Sentinel* as a top legislative leader. Sen. Smith's commitment to the community includes serving on the Board of Directors for Mount Bethel Community Development Corporation, Inc., Youth Advisor for the NAACP, Vice President for The Gold Coast Alumni Chapter of Johnson C. Smith University and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



# CHRISTOPHER L. SMITH

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Pittman Law Group, P.L.**

**2021 - Present**

*Of Counsel – Local Government Attorney*

Practice includes local government, planning and zoning

**Tripp Scott**

**2016 - Present**

*Of Counsel Corporate Attorney*

Practice includes Local Land-Use Law, Business Lobbying on the State and Local Level

**Broward Legislative Delegation**

**2017 - 2019**

*General Counsel*

Principal responsibilities included reviewing legislation, draft clear, unambiguous and relevant legislation consistent with Government policy and in accordance with Government's timetable. Research, analyze, and draft local legislation incorporating appropriate policies which, when enacted, will enable the Government to carry out its functions. Provide Legal Analyses of Local Bills presented to the Delegation. Act as the Delegation's legal representative at meetings of interest groups and consultative bodies, providing information and explanations of existing and proposed legislation.

**Johnson, Anselmo, Murdoch, Burke, Piper & Hochman, P.A.**

**1998 - 2016**

*Litigation Attorney*

Defended Governmental and Private Corporate Entities, including their employees, as well as numerous police agencies in actions brought in State and Federal Courts located in Broward, Dade, Monroe and Palm Beach Counties. The defense included local governmental entities and boards, as well as litigating numerous and varied cases, including police liability, employment discrimination, civil rights actions, EEOC claims, professional liability, employment discrimination, employer liability, utility liability, personal injury and premises liability.

**Tripp, Scott, Conklin And Smith**

**1995 - 1998**

*Corporate Attorney*

Handled negotiations with state, county and local governmental entities on behalf of National Clients. Performed mergers and acquisitions work for clients engaged in merging with or acquiring other companies. Drafted and reviewed all documents to ensure corporate deals were legally compliant. Consulted with clients beginning new businesses, assisted clients in completing all documents required for forming various business entities including limited liability companies limited liability partnerships S-Corporations and others

## PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- ◆ Florida Senate, Elected State Senator
- ◆ Florida House Of Representatives, Elected State Representative
- ◆ Senate Appointment - Florida Constitution Revision Commission
- ◆ Gubernatorial Appointment - Children Service Council Broward County
- ◆ City Commission Appointment Fort Lauderdale Planning & Zoning Board
- ◆ Member, Board of Directors for Mount Bethel Community Development Corporation, Inc.
- ◆ Youth Advisor for the NAACP
- ◆ Vice President for The Gold Coast Alumni Chapter of Johnson C. Smith University
- ◆ Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

## EDUCATION

The Florida State University, College of Law  
National Security Law Moot Court Champion 1994

Juris Doctor, 1994

Johnson C. Smith University  
Charlotte, North Carolina

B.A. Political Science 1992  
*cum laude*



## **ATTORNEY OPAL MCKINNEY-WILLIAMS**

Attorney Opal McKinney-Williams is a Senior Attorney at Pittman Law Group. Opal has extensive experience working with local governments in the areas of administrative and regulatory law and compliance. Prior to joining PLG, Opal spent a decade as shareholder at Ausley McMullen, a Tallahassee-based, full service civil litigation firm. While at Ausley, her practice focused primarily on legal representation and compliance for education-focused governmental entities. An accomplished attorney, Opal has worked closely with education-focused governmental entities on a variety of education related matters. Opal also advises on election law and campaign finance compliance.

Opal's relevant litigation experience includes successfully defending local governments against alleged violations of the sunshine law and the public records act, in rule challenges and administrative disputes challenging both home rule and delegated legislative authority, in redistricting litigation, and in administrative disputes alleging violations of the Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act.

In addition, Opal has a wealth of experience helping local governments to examine and adjust existing policies, procedures, operations, and programs to ensure continued compliance with an ever evolving legislative and legal landscape. Opal has managed the legal affairs of local governments in the areas of business law, employment law, contract drafting, negotiation and review, procurement, governance, compliance, and policy development.

A native of Miami, Florida, Opal obtained her Juris Doctorate degree from Florida State University in 2002, and her Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice, magna cum laude, from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in 1998. She is a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist (B.C.S.) in Education Law. Opal is an Emeritus Member of the Florida School Board Attorneys Association, a statewide association for attorneys representing Florida's 67 school districts. Opal is also an A/V rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell (its highest rating), and her legal accomplishments and abilities have been recognized by such publications as the Florida Trend's Legal Elite. In 2021, Opal was selected by Florida's Congressional Delegation to serve on the Federal Judicial Nominating Conference in the Northern District of Florida. In this role, she evaluates and recommends candidates for vacant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Marshal, and federal judgeship positions in the Sunshine State. The recommendations from this process will be submitted to the White House and Florida's Senators. Opal is a member of Leadership Florida's Cornerstone Class 26, and Leadership Tallahassee Class 24. Opal is licensed to practice in the state of Florida, as well as the Northern District and Southern District Courts for the state of Florida.



# OPAL MCKINNEY-WILLIAMS

## WORK EXPERIENCE

**Pittman Law Group, P.L.**

**2020 — Present**

*Senior Attorney*

Responsibilities include providing legal and compliance services for area school districts and local governments, which consists of daily counsel and guidance on all legal and compliance issues affecting the governments and their governing boards, including, but not limited to, Sunshine Law, Public Records Act, discrimination, contracting and procurement, construction, employee discipline, employee relations, student enrollment, student discipline and intervention services, exceptional student education, and student privacy

**Ausley McMullen**

*Shareholder*

**2009-2020**

*Associate Attorney*

**2002-2008**

Responsibilities included providing legal and compliance services for area school districts, which consists of daily counsel and guidance on all legal and compliance issues affecting k-12 educational institutions and their governing boards, including student discipline and intervention services, exceptional student education, Sunshine Law, Public Records Act, student enrollment, employee relations, discrimination, student privacy, and internal auditing.

## PROFESSIONAL AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- ◆ Board Certified Specialist (B.C.S.) - Education Law
- ◆ Florida School Board Attorneys Association
- ◆ Member, National School Boards Association Counsel of School Attorneys
- ◆ Member, Florida Association of County Attorneys
- ◆ Member, Leadership Florida Class 26
- ◆ Leadership Tallahassee Class 24
- ◆ Selection Chair, Leadership Tallahassee Class V
- ◆ Member, Tallahassee Barristers
- ◆ Member, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- ◆ Member, The Links, Inc.
- ◆ Member, Jack and Jill of America, Inc.
- ◆ Past Chair, Tallahassee Regional Airport Advisory Committee
- ◆ Past President, Friends of the LeRoy Collins Public Library

## EDUCATION

The Florida State University, College of Law

Juris Doctor, 2002

Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University

B.S. Criminal Justice,  
1998

## **ATTORNEY SEAN PITTMAN**

Attorney Sean Pittman serves as the firm's Senior Attorney and Managing Partner. He founded PLG after building a resume as Staff Attorney to the Florida House of Representatives, Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulations, and Regional Director to Florida Governor Lawton Chiles. Attorney Pittman prides himself on being trusted legal counsel to cities, counties, intergovernmental agencies, hospitals, banking institutions, and various professional associations.

As a local government lawyer, Sean represents Florida counties and municipalities before the Florida Cabinet, Florida Legislature, and other tribunals. As an administrative lawyer, Sean has a strong understanding of the Florida Administrative Procedures Act, advising clients on matters before the Department of Administrative Hearings and various State of Florida boards and agencies. Sean also provides counsel to local government clients on issues including but not limited to Public Finance Law, Public Records Laws, Zoning Regulations, Growth Management, and Economic Development.

Sean received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1990 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1994 from the Florida State University College of Law. While at FSU, Sean's leadership qualities led him to become the Student Body President and two-time Chairman of the Florida Student Association Board of Directors.

Sean currently serves as the General Counsel Designate for the National Bar Association and is the former President of the Orange Bowl Committee, the Founder and Chairman of the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, and served on the Board of Directors for Hancock Whitney Bank from 2007 until 2020. In 2017, Sean was inducted into the Tallahassee Barristers Legal Hall of Fame. In 2018, Sean was selected to serve on the Florida State University Foundation's Board of Trustees and the Jim Moran Institute Advisory Board. In 2019, Sean received special recognition from the Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame for his leadership in the opening of Orange Bowl Field at Glades Pioneer Park in Belle Glade, FL.

For his philanthropic endeavors, Sean was presented the 2016 Heman Sweatt Award by the National Bar Association, the Tallahassee Servant Leadership Award by the Greater Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, the 2015 Distinguished Member Award by Leadership Florida, and the Founders Award in 2014 from the Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce. Sean is the former Chairman of Children's Home Society and has served on the boards of the Apalachee Center, Leon County Civic Center Authority, United Way of the Big Bend, and Children's Campaign.

In 2010, Sean contributed \$100,000 to the Florida State University College of Law to fund the Sean Pittman Scholarship. With a fifty percent match from the State of Florida, the total endowment was increased to \$150,000. The income from this endowment is used to award at least one scholarship each year to a minority student who is interested in pursuing a career as a governmental lawyer and awards recipients the opportunity to assist the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators as a law clerk and a policy advisor.

Sean received his Bachelor of Science degree in Political Science in 1990 and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1994 from the Florida State University College of Law. While at FSU, Sean's leadership qualities led him



to become the Student Body President and two-time Chairman of the Florida Student Association Board of Directors, and member of the Florida Board of Regents.

The Tallahassee Democrat named Sean one of the “Top Twenty-Five Most Influential People in Tallahassee” and featured him in the article, “Capitol Clout” for being a significant political insider within the constantly changing environs of Florida’s State Capitol. Sean is currently ranked as one of the “Top 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics” by Influence magazine. Florida Trend magazine says Sean is “one to look for” in the new wave of politics in Florida and lists him as a “Must Know Contact” in Tallahassee. He was also named as one of Florida Trend Top 500 Business Leaders in Florida.

Sean is a co-host of the popular television talk show “The Usual Suspects,” airing on one of the highest watched CBS affiliates in the country. On the show, he analyzes and provides commentary on the latest happenings in state and national politics. Sean also hosts his own radio show and podcast series, “The Sean Pittman Show,” which is widely acclaimed for its meritorious guests and significant insights into politics, business, sports, and more. In recent years, Sean has also made appearances on MSNBC and Fox News, while also being published in the Tallahassee Democrat, the Palm Beach Post, and more.



# SEAN PITTMAN

## WORK EXPERIENCE

<b>Pittman Law Group, P.L.</b> Senior Attorney and Managing Partner	<b>2000 — Present</b>
<b>Florida House of Representatives</b> Staff Attorney	<b>1998 — 1999</b>
<b>Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation</b> Senior Executive Assistant to the Secretary	<b>1995 — 1998</b>
<b>Office of Florida Governor Lawton Chiles</b> Regional Director	<b>1994 — 1995</b>
<b>Katz, Kutter, Haigler, Alderman, Davis &amp; Marks</b> Law Clerk	<b>1993 — 1994</b>
<b>Florida House of Representatives, Rules Committee</b> Law Clerk	<b>1992 — 1993</b>
<b>Florida Board of Regents</b> Member	<b>1992 — 1993</b>
<b>Florida Student Association</b> Executive Director	<b>1990 — 1992</b>
<b>Florida State University</b> Student Body President	<b>1989 — 1990</b>

## PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

- ◆ Founder & Chairman, Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Founder, Wilhelmina Foundation
- ◆ Founder & Member, FSU Burning Spear
- ◆ Past-President, Orange Bowl Committee
- ◆ General Counsel Designate, National Bar Association
- ◆ Board Member, Florida State University Foundation Board of Trustees
- ◆ Board Member, Florida State University Jim Moran Advisory Board
- ◆ Board Member, Florida State University Law School Board of Visitors
- ◆ Board Member, Big Ten Conference Anti-Hate and Anti-Racism Coalition
- ◆ Member, Leon County Schools Re-Opening Task Force
- ◆ Leadership Tallahassee, Class 15
- ◆ Leadership Florida, Class 21
- ◆ Former Chairman, Children's Home Society, North Florida Division
- ◆ Former Board Director, Hancock Whitney Bank of Florida
- ◆ Former Board Member, Capital City Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Former Board Member, Florida State University Center Club
- ◆ Former Board Director & Chair, Seminole Torchbearers
- ◆ Former Board Member, Children's Home Society of Florida
- ◆ Former Board Member, Leon County Civic Center Authority
- ◆ Former Board Member, United Way of the Big Bend
- ◆ Former Board Member, Apalachee Center
- ◆ Former Board Director, Seminole Boosters
- ◆ Former Board Director, Brogan Museum
- ◆ Life Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Incorporated
- ◆ Life Member, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
- ◆ Member, Florida Bar Association
- ◆ Member, American Bar Association
- ◆ Member, National Bar Association
- ◆ Member, Tallahassee Barristers Association
- ◆ Member, Florida Administrative Law Section
- ◆ Member, Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Member, Florida State University Black Alumni Association
- ◆ Member, Sigma Pi Phi Boulé

# SEAN PITTMAN

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## AWARDS

Florida State University Faculty Senate Vires Torch Award, 2019

Palm Beach County Sports Hall of Fame, 2019 Special Recognition

Florida Trend Magazine, 2019 Top 500 Business Leaders in Florida

INFLUENCE Magazine, 2015, 2018, and 2020 Top 100 Most Influential People in Florida Politics

Tallahassee Barristers Association, 2017 Hall of Fame Inductee

National Bar Association, 2016 Heman Marion Sweatt Award

Leadership Florida, 2015 Distinguished Member of the Year

Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce, 2013 Chairman's Award

Black Education Caucus, 2011 Community Service Award

Boulé Journal, 2010 Champion of the Year

Tallahassee Chamber of Commerce, 2007—2008 Small Business of the Year

Tallahassee Democrat, "Top 25 Most Influential People in Tallahassee"

Florida Trend Magazine, "Must Know Contact"

Minority Enterprise Development, 2009 Economic Development Champion of the Year

## EDUCATION

The Florida State University, College of Law  
Juris Doctor, 1994

The Florida State University, College of Social Sciences  
Bachelor of Science in Political Science, 1990

## PUBLICATIONS

2019, "Big Bend Minority Chamber of Commerce Charts an Aggressive Course for 2019" — Tallahassee Democrat

2019, "Florida's Latest Iteration of Voter Suppression—Parking on College Campuses" — South Florida Sun Sentinel

2019, "Not Just Felons Who Need Second Chance at Voting" — Pensacola News Journal

2018, "Amendment 4 Offers Second Chances & Sensible Additions to the Constitution" — South Florida Times

2018, "Far-Left Labels Don't Apply to Andrew Gillum" — FlaPol, Florida Politics

2018, "I Ask the NRA to Take Stand on Stand Your Ground" — News-Press, USA Today

2018, "Immigration v. Incarceration? Lock 'Em Up Usually Wins"

2018, "Dems Must Get Out of Their Own Way" — Pensacola News Journal

2018, "Gun Violence: Explaining the Inexplicable" — Capital Outlook

2017, "Florida Shouldn't Waste Its Teachable Moments" — South Florida Caribbean News

2017, "Florida Democrats Must Craft Compelling, Progressive Campaigns in 2018" — Florida Headline News

2015, "Black Men Bear the Burden of Other People's Suspicions" — New Pittsburgh Courier

2012, "Legislature Must Call Special Session to Fix Stand Your Ground law" — South Florida Sun Sentinel

2011, "Florida: Democracy of Indecision"

2009, "US Healthcare Debate: Losing Focus!"

## FEE STRUCTURE

If selected, Pittman Law Group is proposing the following costs and fees to provide General Legal Services for the duration of the agreement.

1. A monthly retainer of \$10,000 which will apply for the first 40 hours of legal services provided to the Riviera Beach Community Redevelopment Agency Board.
2. Any legal services provided that exceed the first 50 hours will be billed at the rate of \$250 per hour for each attorney.
3. Pittman Law Group shall not be entitled to any additional work fee, success fee, contingent payment, or other compensation.

[THIS SPACE IS INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]

## REFERENCES

**Contact:** Edward Dixon  
**Title:** County Administrator  
**Name of Organization:** Gadsden County Board of County Commissioners  
**Address:** 9B East Jefferson  
Street P.O. Box 1799  
Quincy, FL 32353  
(850) 875-8650  
edixon@gadsdencountyfl.gov  
**Years of performance:** February 2020 - Present

**Contact:** Antonio Jefferson  
**Title:** City Manager  
**Name of Organization:** City of Gretna  
**Address:** Post Office Drawer 220  
Gretna, Florida 32311  
(850) 856-5257  
ajeffer@mygretna.com  
**Years of performance:** 2012 – Present

**Contact:** Rocky Hanna  
**Title:** Superintendent of Schools  
**Name of Organization:** School Board of Leon County, Florida  
**Address:** 2757 West Pensacola Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32304  
(850) 487-7177  
hannar@leonschools.net  
**Years of performance:** 2004-Present

## REQUIRED DISCLOSURES

- A. The Pittman Law Group has no conflicts of interest or any arrangement or relationship which may interfere with our ability to provide independent, unbiased advice to the RBCRA.
- B. There are no investigations, lawsuits, or administrative proceedings involving the Pittman Law Group that the RBCRA should be aware of in considering our capacity to represent the RBCRA.

## COMPLETED FORMS

Signature of Authorized Representative

Notification of Public Entity Crimes Law

Drug-free Workplace

## SECTION 8: SUBMITTAL FORMS

In addition to the proposal, the forms listed below are to be completed and submitted with your proposal.

- 1) Rate Sheet
- 2) Addendum Page
- 3) Public Entity Crimes Statement
- 4) Drug Free Workplace

**NOTE:** Please ensure that all of these documents are completed and submitted with your bid in accordance. Failure to do so may result in your bid not being considered for award.

### SIGNATURE of AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE

*This signature page must be completed and included with the submittal.*

By signing below, the undersigned acknowledges they are an expressly authorized agent of the Company/firm listed below.

Date: April 30, 2021

Full Legal Name of Company: Pittman Law Group, P.L.

Signature: 

Printed Name: Sean Pittman

Title: Senior Attorney & Managing Partner

## ADDENDUM PAGE

The undersigned acknowledges receipt of the following addenda to the Request to Qualify (indicate number and date of each):

Addendum No. N/A Dated                     

Addendum No.                      Dated                     

Addendum No.                      Dated                     

Addendum No.                      Dated                     

Pittman Law Group, P.L.  
COMPANY  
  
SIGNATURE

Senior Attorney & Managing Partner  
TITLE

NOTE: PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL OF THESE DOCUMENTS ARE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED WITH YOUR QUALIFICATIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTION SHEET ON THE PRECEDING PAGE. FAILURE TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN YOU NOT BEING CONSIDERED FOR AWARD.

IT IS THE PROPOSER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CONTACT THE PROCUREMENT DEPARTMENT PRIOR TO SUBMITTING YOUR QUALIFICATION TO ASCERTAIN IF ANY ADDENDA HAVE BEEN ISSUED, TO OBTAIN ANY AND ALL SUCH ADDENDA AND RETURN EXECUTED ADDENDA WITH YOUR QUALIFICATIONS.



## CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC ENTITY CRIMES LAW

Pursuant to Section 287.133, Florida Statutes (1995), you are hereby notified that a person or affiliate who has been placed on the convicted vendor list following a conviction for a public entity crime may not submit a bid on a contract to provide any goods or services to a public entity, may not submit a bid on a contract with a public entity for the construction or repair of a public building or public work, may not submit bids on leases or real property to a public entity, may not be awarded or perform work as a contractor, supplier, subcontractor, or consultant under a contract with any public entity, and may not transact business with any public entity in excess of the threshold amount provided in s. 287.017 [F.S.] for CATEGORY TWO [\$35,000.00] for a period of 36 months from the date of being placed on the convicted vendor list.

Acknowledged by:

Pittman Law Group, P.L.

Firm Name

  
Signature

Sean Pittman, Senior Attorney & Managing Partner  
Name & Title (Print or Type)

## DRUG FREE WORKPLACE

Preference shall be given to businesses with drug-free workplace programs. Whenever two or more bids, which are equal with respect to price, quality, and service, are received by the State or by any political subdivision for the procurement of commodities or contractual services, a bid received from a business that certifies that it has implemented a drug-free workplace program shall be given preference in the award process. Established procedures for processing tie bids will be followed if none of the tied vendors have a drug-free workplace program. In order to have a drug-free workplace program, a business shall:

1. Publish a statement notifying employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in the workplace and specifying the actions that will be taken against employees for violations of such prohibition.
2. Inform employees about the dangers of drug abuse in the workplace, the business's policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace, any available drug counseling, rehabilitation, and employee assistance programs, and the penalties that may be imposed upon employees for drug abuse violations.
3. Give each employee engaged in providing the commodities or contractual services that are under bid a copy of the statement specified in subsection (1).
4. In the statement specified in subsection (1), notify the employees that, as a condition of working on the commodities or contractual services that are under bid, the employee will abide by the terms of the statement and will notify the employer of any conviction of, or plea of guilty or nolo contendere to, any violation of chapter 893 or of any controlled substance law of the United States or any state for a violation occurring in the workplace no later than five (5) days after such conviction.
5. Impose a sanction on, or require the satisfactory participation in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program if such is available in the employee's community, by any employee who is so convicted.
6. Make a good faith effort to continue to maintain a drug-free workplace through implementation of this section.

As the person authorized to sign the statement, I certify that this form complies fully with the above requirements.

THIS CERTIFICATION is submitted by Sean Pittman the (INDIVIDUAL'S NAME)  
of

Senior Attorney & Managing Partner of Pittman Law Group, P.L.  
(TITLE/POSITION WITH  
COMPANY/VENDOR)

(NAME OF COMPANY/VENDOR) who does hereby certify that said Company/Vendor has implemented a drug free workplace program which meets the requirements of Section 287.087, Florida Statutes, which are identified in numbers (1) through (6) above.



SIGNATURE

04-30-2021

DATE