

Justification for Contract between the New York State Assembly and Kasowitz Benson
Torres Friedman LLP

The Assembly has asked the firm of Kasowitz Benson Torres Friedman LLP to serve as special counsel advising the Assembly in formulating or amending legislation or policies related to campaign finance, the electoral process, lobbying, conflicts of interest and ethics of public officers, intended to restore the public trust and increase accountability in state government. As special counsel, Kasowitz Benson Torres Friedman LLP will also advise the Assembly in matters related to the separation of powers and legislative privileges and immunities and provide counsel if litigation arises related to these issues. assist in managing compliance and responding to requests for information in connection with Executive inquiries.

Several law firms were considered by the Assembly. This firm was chosen due to their reputation and litigation expertise. The firm has agreed to offer the Assembly a reduced hourly rate of Two Hundred Eighty-Five Dollars (\$285.00). This is a reasonable market rate for the Albany area and comparable to recently approved contracts for outside counsel. The Assembly does not currently have any on-going contracts with this law firm.