

Alaska State Legislature

Legislative Affairs Agency

Administrative Services, Procurement & Supply Section
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Representative Sara Hannan, Chair
Legislative Council

FROM: JC Kestel, Procurement Officer

DATE: June 13, 2025

SUBJ: West Online Legal Research Services Amendment

The Agency has a five-year contract with West, a Thomson Reuters Business, for Westlaw online legal research services. This amendment request allows the Agency to increase the number of access accounts to provide Westlaw access to the Office of Victims' Rights (OVR), which previously had no access to Westlaw online legal research services and increases the total contract amount accordingly.

The OVR attorneys rely on legal research to effectively advocate for crime victims in Alaska. The office regularly handles complex legal issues such as defending victims' privacy rights against defense motions, addressing evolving restitution law, and filing amicus briefs for appellate courts on victims' rights matters. This work requires research of the latest case law. Through access to Westlaw, OVR attorneys are better able to represent victims' interests in these critical legal matters.

OVR approached the Agency to request access accounts for Westlaw online legal research services, however, the Agency did not have any unused access accounts. OVR and the Agency investigated two options for obtaining the additional access accounts. OVR obtained a quote to enter a separate contract with West for the necessary access accounts, which was approximately \$1,600 per month. The Agency obtained a quote to add the additional accounts to the Agency's existing contract with West, for logins used exclusively by the Division of Legislative Legal Services, which was approximately \$720 per month, a savings of approximately \$880 per month. Amending the existing contract with West was significantly less expensive.

Therefore, the Agency proposes amending its existing contract with West to add four (4) additional logins for OVR, the additional cost of which will be funded by OVR. The overall cost to add the OVR logins for the remainder of the five-year contract, which expires December 23, 2026, is \$15,826.13.

Thank you for your consideration.

MOTION: I move that Legislative Council adopt Amendment No. 1 of the Agency's contract for online legal research services from West, a Thompson Reuters Business, to increase the number of access accounts by four and increase the contract amount by fifteen thousand eight hundred twenty-six dollars and thirteen cents (\$15,826.13) to a total of two hundred forty-two thousand three hundred twenty-one dollars and seventy-five cents (\$242,321.75).