



## COLUMBIA COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AGENDA ITEM REQUEST FORM

The Board of County Commissioners meets the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. in the Columbia County School Board Administrative Complex Auditorium, 372 West Duval Street, Lake City, Florida 32055. All agenda items are due in the Board's office one week prior to the meeting date.

Today's Date: 2/23/2018 Meeting Date: 3/1/2018

Name: Joel Foreman Department: County Attorney

Division Manager's Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ben Scott".

### 1. Nature and purpose of agenda item:

Request for approval of engagement letter with Burgess to represent County in bankruptcy proceedings.

### 2. Recommended Motion/Action:

There is no recommended motion or action.

### 3. Fiscal impact on current budget.

This item has no effect on the current budget.

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Board Agenda, March 1, 2018

From: Joel F. Foreman

**Re: FEE AGREEMENT – Jason Burgess – CMS Economic Development Agreement**

Date: February 23, 2018

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Attached is a fee agreement proposed by Jason Burgess to provide assistance to County Staff with matters relating to enforcement of the County's economic development agreement with CMS Professional Staffing. There are bankruptcy proceedings pending in Jacksonville that could impact the County's ability to enforce this agreement and Mr. Burgess would appear for the County there.

A firm bio for Mr. Burgess is attached.

I would like to engage Mr. Burgess and request board approval of this agreement.

# The Law Offices of Jason A. Burgess, LLC

Other Offices Available  
by Appointment:

Daytona Beach  
Orlando  
Tampa  
West Palm Beach  
Miami  
Tallahassee

## Your Business Bankruptcy Attorney

1855 Mayport Road  
Atlantic Beach, Florida 32233

Telephone:  
(904) 372-4791  
(386) 473-1097  
(407) 476-1511  
(813) 421-5510  
E-Mail:  
jason@  
jasonAburgess.com

February 5, 2018

Columbia County, Florida  
c/o Joel Foreman  
**VIA EMAIL: JForeman@columbiacountyfl.com**

**Re: Christopher Michael Samson Bankruptcy  
Case No. 3:18-bk-00104-JAF**

Dear Mr. Foreman:

This letter will serve as the fee agreement between Columbia County, Florida (the "Client") and the Law Offices of Jason A. Burgess, LLC (the "Firm"), wherein the Firm agrees to represent the county in the Chapter 11 case regarding Christopher Michael Samson, 3:18-bk-00104-JAF.

The Firm will provide the services customary in the representation of a creditor. The undersigned will be the lead attorney on the Case. My hourly billing rate is \$295.00. My Paralegal billing rate is \$75.00 per hour and Associate rate is \$195.00. Your case may require the assistance of additional attorneys, paralegals, or non-attorney personnel, and they will furnish you their hourly rate upon request. The Firm will provide you with statements which will explain in detail the services provided upon request. The Firm shall be reimbursed for out-of-pocket expenses such as photocopies, postage, long distance telephone charges, facsimile charges, courier or messenger services, travel outside of Jacksonville, and recording and certifying documents.

It is the Firm's regular practice to obtain a retainer in creditor representation. In this case, we expect to receive a retainer from you in the amount of \$5,000.00 (the "retainer"). The retainer will be held in the Firm's trust account, until taken as draws.

The Firm only represents Columbia County, Florida and no other parties.

By accepting this engagement, the Firm is not agreeing to represent the Client in any other related matters such as litigation outside of the bankruptcy court or any other matters which are not directly involved in this case.

If you have any questions regarding procedures outlined in this letter, or any other aspect of our representation, please call me at your convenience so we can discuss them. If the matters set out herein are satisfactory, we would appreciate you signing the enclosed copy of this letter.

We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to represent you in this matter, and look forward to working with you to a successful resolution.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jason A. Burgess

Jason A. Burgess  
Attorney at Law

Acknowledged and agreed to:

COLUMBIA COUNTY, FLORIDA

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joel Foreman  
Columbia County Attorney

The Law Offices of Jason A. Burgess, LLC | (904) 372-4791

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Current News and Updates:

[For the Latest News and Updates, Click Here to Go to the Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Blog](#)

Jason A. Burgess was featured recently in numerous publications in Jacksonville.

[What Happens to Debt After You Die](#) [July 30, 2013]

[Jacksonville Bankruptcies Fall](#) [April 25, 2013]

[Sante Fe Partners Buy St. Augustine Toyota](#) [March 29, 2013]

[We're not out of the woods yet](#) [June 28, 2012]

[Per the Jacksonville Business Journal The Law Offices of Jason A. Burgess, LLC had three of the top twenty largest cases in 2011 for Jacksonville, Florida](#) [December 28, 2011]

[Seven Duval Hotels File Chapter 11 Since Jan. 1](#) [April 8, 2011]

[It's a record: Bankruptcies end 2010 near 67,000](#) [January 7, 2011]

[Bankruptcies: Record year within reach](#) [December 10, 2010]

[Decrease in business bankruptcies not expected to last](#) [October 18, 2010]

[Bankruptcies: Nine-month rate continues at record](#) [October 7, 2010]

[Bankruptcies tracking to trump 2009](#) [August 13, 2010]

[District bankruptcies nearing annual 70,000](#) [July 13, 2010]

[Brunell Chapter 11 'sign of the times'](#) [July 7, 2010]

Recent Speaking Engagements:

["Chapter 11 Bankruptcy Issues "](#) [August 21, 2015 at the Sawgrass Mariott]

Attorney Profiles

Jason A. Burgess (Managing Member)

Jason is a bankruptcy attorney that concentrates his practice on Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases and complex bankruptcy litigation. While in law school and for a time after graduation Jason practiced in the creditor's rights area for many of the large financial institutions. Later Jason decided to use his knowledge of the creditor's side for the Debtor's advantage and switched sides. Now he concentrates his practice on helping businesses and individuals reorganize. Jason is often called upon as a Chapter 11 consultant when other debtor or creditor attorneys run into Chapter 11 bankruptcy cases.

Federal Courts Admissions:

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit

U.S. District Court, Middle District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Florida

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Florida

U.S. District Court, District of Colorado

U.S. District Court, Western District of Wisconsin

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Texas

U.S District Court, Northern District of Illinois

U.S. District Court, Western District of Arkansas

U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Arkansas

State Courts Admissions:

District Of Columbia, Florida, Tennessee, and Texas

Education:

J.D. from Florida Coastal School of Law, B.S. from University of Alabama, and

LL.M. in Business Transactions from the University of Alabama School of Law

Honors:

**Board Certified Specialist in Business Bankruptcy Law** by the American Board of Certification

Super Lawyers Florida Super Lawyer 2016

Super Lawyers Florida Super Lawyer 2015

Super Lawyers Florida Super Lawyer 2014

Super Lawyers Florida Super Lawyer 2013

Super Lawyers Florida Rising Stars 2012

Orlando Style Orlando's No. 1 Best Lawyers 2015

Orlando Style Orlando Legal Elite Rising Star 2014

Top 40 Lawyers Under 40 by American Society of Legal Advocates

AVVO Superb Rating

Martindale AV Preeminent Rating

The American Lawyer 2012 Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Bankruptcy & Creditor-Debtor Rights

Corporate Counsel 2012 Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Bankruptcy & Creditor-Debtor Rights

The National Law Journal 2012 Top Rated Lawyer in Commercial Bankruptcy & Creditor-Debtor Rights

Speaking Engagements:

- CLE Course Teacher of "Lien Stripping" Junior Mortgages
- FCSL Lecturer Regarding Bankruptcy
- CLE Course Teacher for Discovery Issues/2004 Examinations
- CLE Course Teacher on Chapter 11 Issues

Memberships:

American Bankruptcy Institute, National Association of Consumer Bankruptcy Attorneys, District of Columbia Bar, Florida Bar, Jacksonville Bankruptcy Bar Association Past President, National Association of Chapter 13 Trustees, Northern District of Florida Bankruptcy Bar Association, Turnaround Underground Jacksonville Committee Founder and Committee Member

Recent Publications:

- Chapter 7 Commercial Bankruptcy Strategies, 2014 ed.: Leading Lawyers on Analyzing the Trends, Strategies, and Risks in Chapter 7 Liquidations (Inside the Minds) [April 1, 2014].
- "The Two Theories of 1111(b)." Abi.org. <http://committees.abi.org/committees/secured-credit/post/2014/the-two-theories-of-1111b>
- Bankruptcy and Financial Restructuring Law 2015: Top Lawyers on Trends and Key Strategies for the Upcoming Year [April 2015].
- Chapter 7 Commercial Strategies, 2015 ed.: Leading Lawyers on Analyzing the Trends, Strategies, and Risks in Chapter 7 Liquidations (Inside the Minds) [September 2015].

Recent Types of Businesses Filed:

Real Estate Investors, Land Surveying Company, Land Development Company, Hair Salon, Solar Company, Hotels, Roofing Company, Law Firm, Software Development Company, Bed & Breakfast, Condo Company, Paper Company, Tree Service, Bar/Nightclubs, Stucco Company, Restaurants, Storage Facility, Yacht Company, Lawn Equipment Company, Convenience Store, Mobile Home Park, Aquatic Company, Collection Agency, Church, Foam Company, Dental Group, Medical Supplier, Apartment Complex, Office Building, Mortgage Servicing Company, Pediatrician Office, Jeweler, Steel Fabricator, Patio Furniture Manufacturer, Plumbing Company, Civic Association, Concrete Company, Liquor Store

