

# County of Passaic

## Board of County Commissioners



### OFFICE OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Director Cassandra "Sandi" Lazzara  
Deputy Director Orlando Cruz  
John W. Bartlett  
Rodney De Vore  
Bruce James  
Michael Ramaglia  
Christina Schratz

401 Grand Street  
Paterson, New Jersey 07505  
Tel: 973-881-4402  
Fax: 973-742-3746

Matthew P. Jordan, Esq.  
Administrator  
Nadege D. Allwaters, Esq.  
County Counsel  
Louis E. Imhof  
Clerk Of The Board

Date: Mar 24, 2026 - 5:30 PM

Agenda: RESOLUTION RETAINING TRENK ISABEL SIDDIQI & SHAHDANIAN, P.C. TO PROVIDE OUTSIDE LEGAL SERVICES IN THE MATTER OF MARCOS MERCHAN V. COUNTY OF PASSAIC, ET AL., DOCKET NO. ESX-993-26, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 AND RFQ-26-060

THIS RESOLUTION WAS REQUESTED BY:  
COUNTY COUNSEL

REVIEWED BY:

Matthew P. Jordan, Esq.  
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

APPROVED AS TO FORM AND LEGALITY:

Nadege D. Allwaters, Esq.  
COUNTY COUNSEL

Administration and Finance

COMMITTEE NAME

Official Resolution#	
Meeting Date	3/24/2026
Introduced Date	3/17/2026
Adopted Date	
Agenda Item	2.
CAF#	T-19-56-850-000-801,
Purchase Req. #	
Result	

**RESOLUTION RETAINING TRENK ISABEL SIDDIQI & SHAHDANIAN, P.C. TO PROVIDE OUTSIDE LEGAL SERVICES IN THE MATTER OF MARCOS MERCHAN V. COUNTY OF PASSAIC, ET AL., DOCKET NO. ESX-993-26, PURSUANT TO N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5 AND RFQ-26-060**

**WHEREAS**, the County of Passaic (“County”) is a body politic and corporate pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:18-1 and vested with all rights contained therein; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:20-1, the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Passaic (“Board”) is vested with managing the property, finances, and affairs of the County; and

**WHEREAS**, the County, the Passaic County Sheriff’s Office (“PCSO”), and an individual officer of the PCSO (collectively, “County Defendants”), are all named defendants in Marcos Merchan v. County of Passaic, et al., Docket No. ESX-L-993-26, a matter pending in Superior Court, requiring retention of outside legal counsel; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5, et seq., on December 1, 2025, the Passaic County Purchasing Agent issued RFQ-26-060, Expand Pool Outside Legal Counsel (“RFQ-26-060”), seeking to expand the pool of law firms qualified to provide outside legal services to the County in calendar year 2026; and

**WHEREAS**, on December 29, 2025, the Board passed Resolution No. R-25-1233, qualifying an expanded pool of outside legal counsel under RFQ-26-060 for calendar year 2026, to be hired on an as-needed basis and as recommended by the Passaic County Counsel, which included Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C.; and

**WHEREAS**, the Passaic County Counsel is recommending to retain Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C. to represent the County Defendants in the Merchan matter, for an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00); and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:32-60.1, et seq., Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C. executed the Non-Involvement in Prohibited Activities in Russia or Belarus Certification, attached hereto and made part of this Resolution, certifying the law firm is not involved in prohibited activities in Russia and Belarus, and the County confirmed that Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C. is not identified on the Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons list created by the Office of Foreign Assets Control; and

**WHEREAS**, funds are available in Account No. T-19-56-850-000-801, or any account that may be deemed appropriate by the Chief Financial Officer or his designee, and the availability of funds has been contingently certified by the Chief Financial Officer subject to sufficient funds being appropriated by the Board in the 2026 and/or subsequent County budget(s), which is attached hereto and made part of this Resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, this matter was presented for the March 11, 2026, Administration and Finance Committee meeting, and is being recommended to the Board for approval.

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40A:11-5(1)(a)(i), the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Passaic retains Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C. to represent the County Defendants in Marcos Merchan v. County of Passaic, et al., Docket No. ESX-L-993-26, for an amount not to exceed seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000.00), in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth in RFQ-26-060.

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Clerk to the Board shall publish on the Public Notices page of the County’s website, a brief notice stating the nature, duration, service, and amount of the contract to Trenk Isabel Siddiqi & Shahdanian, P.C., and maintain a copy of this Resolution on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the Clerk to the Board.

**LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Clerk to the Board, County Counsel, and Director of the Board are authorized to take any action necessary to carry out the purpose of this Resolution.

NB

March 24, 2026