

# GOVERNMENT CONTRACTS AND LITIGATION SECTION



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## Summary of Proposed Community Outreach Project

The Steering Committee of the DC Bar Government Contracts and Litigation Section is offering to provide legal assistance to the DC Financial Authority and the D.C. Public Schools with respect to disputes surrounding the food service contract for the District of Columbia School System.

**DRAFT**

August 6, 1996

**PATRICK K. O'KEEFE**  
DIRECT DIAL (202) 498-7778

**By Facsimile and U.S. Mail**

John W. Hill, Jr.  
Executive Director  
D.C. Financial Authority  
1 Thomas Circle, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dr. Franklin L. Smith  
Superintendent  
D.C. Public Schools  
415 12th Street, N.W., Rm. 1209  
Washington, D.C. 20004

**Re: D.C. Public Schools Food Service Contract**

Dear Mr. Hill and Dr. Smith:

The members of the D.C. Bar's Government Contracts and Litigation Section<sup>1/</sup> have read and heard the news reports concerning the current disputes surrounding the

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<sup>1/</sup> The views expressed herein represent only those of the Government Contracts and Litigation Section of the District of Columbia Bar and not those of the D.C. Bar or of its Board of Governors.

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food service contract for the District of Columbia School System. As a member of the District of Columbia Community, the D.C. Bar is very much committed to providing assistance where possible. As this matter involving the food service contract appears to involve Government Contracts issues we would like to volunteer the services of a panel of our members who are Government Contracts experts to assist in any way you deem appropriate.

We believe we could help in two (2) specific ways. First, since we have no vested interest in the matter and our members will provide services on a volunteer basis we could offer an independent legal assessment of the current solicitation and resulting food service contract for the consideration of the D.C. Financial Authority and the Superintendent.

Second, if the School System and the Financial Authority determine that there is a need to change any aspect of the current contract our panel could act as an independent mediator between the contractor and the School System, noting potential alternatives the parties may not have considered. Mediation is often a most efficient way to avoid long drawn out disputes.

We are, of course, willing to consider providing assistance in any other way the School System or the Financial Authority may believe is appropriate.

The D.C. Bar and specifically the Government Contracts and Litigation Section is committed to making a difference in our community, using our professional expertise where possible. We look forward to providing assistance as you may desire. Please contact me at your earliest convenience and let me know if the Financial Authority and School System would like our assistance. My business telephone number is (202) 496-7778. If you wish to have our assistance we will immediately form a panel

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led by Mr. Douglas Patin, a Partner in the Washington, D.C. Law Firm of Spriggs and Hollingsworth.

I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Patrick K. O'Keefe  
McKenna & Cuneo, I.,L.P.  
Co-Chair, Steering Committee of the D.C.  
Bar Government Contracts and Litigation  
Section

PKO/pko