

MEMORANDUM TO VENICE CITY COUNCIL

THROUGH CHARTER OFFICER: James Clinch, City Manager E-SIGN: James Clinch (Oct 22, 2025 08:12:31 EDT)

FROM: Nicholas Dumas, Airport Manager; R. David Jackson, Asst. City Attorney

DEPARTMENT: Airport

DATE: 10/20/25 **MEETING DATE**: 10/28/25

SUBJECT / TOPIC: Requesting City Council Approve the Legal Services Agreement for C.J.

Wilson Law, P.A.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. is a Florida-based law firm with extensive experience and specialization in aviation law. The firm provides advisory and representation services to airports on a wide range of complex legal and regulatory matters, including airport administration law, real estate transactions, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) land use policy, revenue use compliance, rates and charges structures, National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) approvals, minimum standards, airport rules and regulations, noise mitigation, and airport/airspace zoning.

As the Venice Municipal Airport advances efforts to update its policies, procedures, leases, and rates and fees structure, staff anticipates the need for specialized legal counsel to ensure compliance with FAA regulations and to support sound policy development. Engaging an aviation law firm such as C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. would provide targeted expertise to assist both Airport staff and the City Attorney's Office on an as-needed basis. This approach ensures the City has access to highly specialized legal knowledge without committing to ongoing costs beyond the scope of actual services rendered.

Mr. C.J. Wilson, principal of the firm, has nearly two decades of experience practicing aviation law and has represented numerous airports across Florida in complex legal and regulatory matters. Since 2005, he has focused exclusively on airport-related issues that directly impact operational compliance and fiscal sustainability. Notably, Mr. Wilson successfully guided Kissimmee Gateway Airport (ISM) through the implementation of landing fees, making it the first public-use general aviation airport in Florida to do so. When the matter proceeded to the Florida Supreme Court, his legal strategy prevailed, establishing a key statewide precedent.

Given Venice Municipal Airport's ongoing modernization of its leases, minimum standards, and operating policies, Mr. Wilson's demonstrated expertise in FAA compliance, airport governance, and policy implementation would provide significant value to the City. Retaining C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. on an as-needed basis will strengthen the City's ability to proactively address legal and regulatory challenges, ensure consistency with federal and state requirements, and support the Airport's long-term operational and financial integrity.

SUPPORTS STRATEGIC PLAN: Goal Two: Provide Efficient, Responsive Government with High Quality Services

COUNCIL ACTION REQUESTED: For Council Adoption by Consent Motion

Yes	N/A		
\boxtimes		Document(s) Reviewed for ADA compliance (required for agenda posting) Fung City Attorney Reviewed (Approved	
\boxtimes		City Attorney Reviewed/Approval	
\boxtimes		Risk Management Review M. June	
\boxtimes		Finance Department Review/Approval	
		Funds Availability (account number): 401-0970-542.31-03	

Vendor Name: C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. Document Date: 10/14/2025				
Expiration Date: N/A (Note: If expiration date must be calculated go to Date Calculator: Add	to			
or Subtract From a Date)				
Contract Type: Choose a type from List.				
Contract Term: N/A (Note: Initial term plus renewable # of times for length of term,	for			
example "3 Years + 2 x 1 Year")				
Is this a Capital Improvement Contract No				
Insurance Expiration 1 Click or tap to enter a date mm/dd/yyyy.				
Insurance Expiration 2 Click or tap to enter a date mm/dd/yyyy.				
Is the Contract Renewable No				
Contract Status Active				
One-time E-mail Notification: 30 days				
Notify Department 1: Airport				
Notify Department 2:				
Notify Department 3 Choose a department to be notified.				
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(*For Record Retention Staff Completion Only*):				
Note: Complete the information below just prior to scanning. Then attach this document the last page of the contract to be scanned.	as			
Scanned by:				
Date scanned:				
Original returned to:				
Date returned:				



Christopher J. Wilson

1636 Hillcrest Street Orlando, FL 32803 407.232.2003 chris@cjwilsonlaw.net

September 12, 2025

SENT VIA E-MAIL: djackson@flgovlaw.com

City of Venice C/O R. David Jackson Assistant City Attorney Persson, Cohen, Mooney, Fernandez & Jackson, P.A. 6853 Energy Court Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

RE: Engagement Agreement

Dear Mr. Jackson:

I am confirming through this letter that C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. (Firm) will undertake to represent the City of Venice on matters relating to the Venice Municipal Airport (KVNC) on matters as assigned to the Firm related to aeronautical and non-aeronautical land leases, compliance with Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Land Use Policy, FAA Revenue Use Policy, FAA land releases, compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), airport rates and charges, airport planning, noise issues, and compatible land use compliance and/or other airport related matters.

This letter is a routine letter we use in opening new files, and to agree with you, the client, as to the payment of fees and costs. Our fees for the services described above are based upon the time spent by the attorney. Our attorneys' billing rates for this matter will be \$355.00 per hour. Our paralegals' time is billed at \$125.00 per hour. We are mindful of the costs of legal services and understand that every client wishes to avoid unnecessary expense. Accordingly, we will seek at all times to represent you efficiently and effectively. You will be notified of any increases to our rates prior to any change.

You will, of course, also be responsible for all costs that we incur in the course of your representation. Costs include travel, copying, messenger services, computer research services, filing fees, docketing fees, and other out-of-pocket expenditures. Costs which exceed \$100.00 may be forwarded to you directly for payment.

We cannot determine at present the amount of time that our services will involve, nor can we foresee what level of expertise will be required. Because of these uncertainties, you should not rely upon any "estimates" of our fees.

City of Venice September 12, 2025

We will send a monthly invoice showing the amount of our fees and costs disbursements. Each invoice is payable upon receipt. I believe that the above provisions outline in reasonable detail our agreement as to this representation. If you find these arrangements satisfactory, please sign this letter and return it to me as soon as possible. Our representation will conform to the terms of this agreement. We sincerely appreciate the opportunity to represent you and look forward to a pleasant and successful relationship.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Wilson

Accepted and agreed to this day of	, 2025.
City of Venice	
BY:	
Print Name: Nick Pachota	

Mayor



Christopher J. Wilson

1636 Hillcrest Street Orlando, FL 32803 407.232.2003 chris@cjwilsonlaw.net

PROFESSIONAL CONCENTRATION

Mr. Wilson's practice is focused on airport administration law, government law, land use, real estate transactions, title matters, zoning law, environmental law (state and federal), business transactions, aeronautical and non-aeronautical commercial leases, and construction contracts. Within airport law. Mr. Wilson focuses on compatible land use, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Land Use Policy, FAA Revenue Use Policy, minimum standards, rates and charges, airport planning, noise issues, airport zoning (airspace), FAA Land Releases, and National Environmental Policy Act approvals. Mr. Wilson currently represents multiple airport clients in the State of Florida ranging from General Aviation to Large Hub.

EDUCATION

Florida State University – APRIL 2005 College of Law, Juris Doctor, Cum laude

University of Florida - MAY 2000 Bachelor of Science in Business Administration Dual Major Management/Marketing Minor: Economics

WORK EXPERIENCE

C.J. Wilson Law, P.A. President, July 2021 - Present

Marchena and Graham, P.A. Attorney at Law, August 2005 – July 2012

Partner, July 2012 - July 2021

Office of the United States Trustee, Department of Justice

Law Clerk, July 2004 - August 2004

First North American National Bank

Financial Trainee Program, July 2000 – July 2002

ACTIVITIES AND HONORS

Law: Judicial Extern to the honorable Lewis Killian, United States Bankruptcy Court; Northern District of Florida; Book Award, Conflict of Laws.

Community Service: Scouting America - Cubmaster 2017-2019, Scoutmaster 2022-Present

Personal: Eagle Scout, Private Pilot

Member:

Orange County Bar Association

Airports Council International – North America – Recently nominated to the Legal Steering Committee -Associate Member (Term: January 2026-January 2028)

Florida Airports Council – Corporate Member



REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

Greater Orlando Aviation Authority (2008–Present)

Orlando International Airport (MCO) and Orlando Executive Airport (ORL)

- Commercial Real Estate: Drafted and negotiated complex documents for Brightline rail line easement, station lease, and maintenance facility, including agreements for concessions, advertising, and per passenger fees.
- MRO: Drafted and negotiated a \$350 million MRO facility lease for United Airlines, including demolition of an existing obsolete hangar; drafted and negotiated a \$20 million MRO facility lease for Frontier Airlines; negotiated a warehouse complex lease addition for Southwest Airlines.
- Fixed Base Operators: Drafted and negotiated amendments for legacy FBOs at both MCO and ORL; created a new lease for the first new FBO at ORL in 40 years.
- Minimum Standards: Drafted and assisted in the administration and revision of Minimum Standards at ORL and MCO.
- FAA Land Use: Secured multiple Part 163 releases for MCO and ORL; advised on compliance strategies for the new FAA Land Use Policy.
- Advanced Air Mobility: Collaborated with staff on the AAM working group to implement AAM at MCO, drafted procurement documents, participated in working groups and conferences, and coordinated with FAA and OEMs for Innovation 28.
- NEPA: Provided strategic NEPA representation; assisted in obtaining a Programmatic Tiered Environmental Assessment Finding of No Significant Impact for a 1,000-acre aeronautical development.
- Airport Noise and Height Zoning: Represented GOAA at the Aviation Noise Abatement
 Committee, reviewed Part 150 and noise abatement procedures, advised on avigation
 easements, and coordinated with local jurisdictions. Worked with the Florida Airports
 Council to draft legislation addressing the Live Local Act's impact on airports. Drafted
 height zoning Interlocal Agreement and ordinance for compliance with height zoning
 required by State of Florida, in effect in Orange County, Osceola County, Seminole County,
 and Orlando.
- General FAA Issues: Provided analysis on Revenue Use Policy, Grant Assurance Compliance, and Land Releases.

Kissimmee Gateway Airport (ISM) (2021–Present)

- Revised and drafted new Minimum Standards (in progress).
- Drafted and negotiated an on-airport hotel lease.
- Advised on FAA leasing and real estate matters.
- Provided counsel on FAA regulations relating to landing fees.

Citrus County – Inverness Airport (INF) and Crystal River Airport (CGC) (2024–Present)

- Advised on FAA leasing and real estate matters.
- Consulted on Fixed Base Operator agreements.
- Provided guidance on FAA regulations and Part 743 release for County property.
- Developed a term sheet for initiating negotiations.
- Drafted and negotiated a non-commercial hangar lease.
- Reviewed and revised proposed new Minimum Standards.

Council Agenda Memorandum for Approval of Engagement Letter with C.J. Wilson Law

Final Audit Report 2025-10-22

Created: 2025-10-20

By: Nicholas Dumas (ndumas@venicefl.gov)

Status: Signed

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"Council Agenda Memorandum for Approval of Engagement Lett er with C.J. Wilson Law" History

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