

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SEEKS CONTRACTS WITH PRIVATE COUNSEL IN THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

The Department of Justice is seeking proposals from private counsel interested in entering into contracts with the Department of Justice to collect delinquent Federal debts in the Northern District of Illinois, including unsecured debts and debts secured by real estate for civil lawsuits and foreclosure actions.

The private counsel program began as a pilot project pursuant to the Federal Debt Recovery Act. The Attorney General now has permanent authority under 31 U.S.C. § 3718(b) to contract with private counsel in as many or as few federal judicial districts as he deems appropriate.

Private counsel who win contracts will be authorized to collect unsecured Federal debts on behalf of the United States in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois. The Department will pay private counsel on a contingency fee basis when they are asked to collect unsecured debts. Private counsel who win contracts will also be authorized to initiate mortgage foreclosure proceedings in Federal court. The Department will pay private counsel handling foreclosure cases a flat rate per case, plus reimbursements for specified expenses.

Lawyers and law firms interested in this business will be expected to bid the contingency fees they propose to charge the Department to collect unsecured debts, as well as the flat fees they propose to charge for foreclosure proceedings.

To be eligible to bid on these contracts, private counsel must be licensed to practice law in the State of Illinois and be regularly engaged in the private practice of law in the judicial district. They must also be admitted to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois.

The solicitation for private counsel services will be distributed solely through the General Service Administration's electronic posting system (EPS) website. Counsel interested in obtaining a Request for Proposals (RFP) from the Department to enable them to bid on this debt collection business should visit www.fedbizopps.gov and click on Find Business Opportunity to search for Solicitation No. DJJ-R-06-RFP-0418. Paper copies of the RFP will not be available. The EPS website will provide downloading and other instructions, including information on how counsel can register for automated notifications and updates to this solicitation.

The RFP will contain instructions about how to prepare bids and as much information as possible on the number and dollar amounts of the debts that may be referred to private counsel in the district. Counsel with any questions about this program may contact Contracting Officer Tim Spencer at (202) 307-1956 or Timothy.A.Spencer@usdoj.gov.