



SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
AGENDA September 09, 2026

Time: 3:45 p.m. / Location: In-Person

Admin Members: B. Page – Chair, J. Driscoll, G. Popps
D. Kranz, M. Jennings, E. Bough-Martin, A. Rodriguez

PRESENT DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Legal Services - *Resolution*

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AGENCY'S EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO RETAIN ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

WHEREAS, the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency requires ongoing legal services and wishes to engage a firm and its designated lead attorney to provide such services; and

WHEREAS, the scope of the retained firm and its designated lead attorney provides legal review and counsel on matters pertaining to corporate governance, contracts, personnel, and other legal issues as specifically requested by the OCRRA as well as attendance at monthly board meetings and other meetings as determined; and

WHEREAS, the Agency did previously obtain competitive proposals from appropriately licensed firms and lead attorneys and designated a firm and lead attorney as Agency Counsel through December 2028; and

WHEREAS, the designated lead attorney is now employed by a different legal firm and wishes to remain Agency Counsel with the same rates as provided in the 2025 proposal; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has reviewed the credentials of the new firm, verified the proposed rates, and found it to be in the best interest of the Agency to redesignate its Agency Counsel; and

WHEREAS, the Administration Committee has recommended that the Agency retain the services of Mackenzie Hughes LLP of Syracuse, New York, with James Gascon as lead attorney, to provide the above-referenced services through December 31, 2028 at the hourly rates of \$275.00 per hour for the lead attorney and partners of the firm and special counsel, \$240.00 per hour for Associates and \$150.00 per hour for paralegals and at an estimated monthly cost of approximately \$11,000 per month and not to exceed approximately \$132,000 annually without approval of the Board of Directors, now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency does hereby authorize its Executive Director to enter into a contract with Mackenzie Hughes LLP of Syracuse, New York to provide the above-referenced legal services for the Agency through December 31, 2028, and that James Gascon is redesignated as Agency Counsel for such term, with such services to be on an as-needed basis for the amounts as specified in this resolution. This Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution Adopted Date: _____

Vote: Ayes: _____ Nays: _____ Abstentions: _____

Signed: _____



August 31, 2026

Michael Mokrzycki
Acting Agency Executive Director
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
100 Elwood Davis Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212

Re: Proposal for Legal Services

Dear Mr. Mokrzycki:

Please accept this correspondence, along with the enclosures, as a request to be appointed as Agency Legal Counsel. This submission will largely follow the form of an RFP submission.

James J. Gascon will serve as lead counsel. A copy of his resume is attached. W Bradley Hunt will serve as back-up counsel. His resume is also enclosed.

Our proposal for legal services are:

\$275 per hour for James Gascon and Partners
\$240 per hour for Associates
\$150 per hour for Paralegals

These rates will remain for the entire term of the Agreement. Attached you will find a proposal Agreement for legal services.

To respond more specifically to the most recent RFP for legal services, please be advised as follows:

- a. (1) The full legal name and address of the applicant is

Mackenzie Hughes LLP
440 S. Warren Street, Suite 400
Syracuse, New York 13202

JAMES J. GASCON
ATTORNEY AT LAW
DIRECT DIAL: (315) 233-8338
EMAIL: JGASCON@MACKENZIEHUGHES.COM

MACKENZIE HUGHES TOWER
440 S. WARREN ST., SUITE 400
SYRACUSE, NY 13202
PHONE: (315) 474-7571
FAX: (315) 474-6409
WWW.MACKENZIEHUGHES.COM

Michael Mokrzycki
August 31, 2026
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(2) The Federal Employer ID number is: 01-069-0915

(3) and (4) The representative authorized to discuss this proposal is
James J. Gascon, Esq.,
(315) 992-1472
jgascon@mackenziehughes.com

b. (1) Mackenzie Hughes LLP is a full service law firm with a wide range of practice areas, most notably including municipal and non-profit group representation. A more comprehensive description of the firm can be found at the firm's website www.mackenziehughes.com

(2) Mackenzie Hughes LLP is uniquely qualified to represent OCRRA as it currently represents multiple municipal entities and Public Benefit Corporations. A Copy of Mackenzie Hughes Information/History/Background is enclosed within this submission.

(3) and (4) The firms Municipal Practice Group has extensive experience representing Municipal entities. The lead attorney James Gascon has served as OCRRA's general counsel since 2020.

Section 4 a(1) The Firm's non discrimination policy is enclosed.

It is our fervent belief that the James Gascon is the best qualified person to serve as general counsel for the Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency, Inc. ("OCRRA")

He has over 39 years of experience as a litigation trial attorney. This has exposed him to nearly all aspects of the law and has permitted him to experience how legal matters are ultimately resolved in a court of law. His practice also includes over 20 years of experience representing municipal corporations. Mr. Gascon has also represented as legal counsel, various corporate entities including a publicly traded corporation, Microwave Filter Company, Inc., and a not-for-profit corporation, the Multiple Sclerosis Resource of central New York, Inc.

Representing these municipal and non-for-profit corporations has exposed Mr. Gascon to the legal requirements of New York's open Meetings Law, FOIL requests and the general requirements associated with the conducting of board and committee meetings.

Michael Mokrzycki
August 31, 2026
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Perhaps the experience that most qualifies him to serve as general legal counsel for OCRRA is the fact that he has served in this capacity for the past 6 years. As such, he has drafted and negotiated numerous contracts for OCRRA, prepared and reviewed P.O.'s and board resolutions and has provided daily advice to OCRRA's Management Team. The Mackenzie Hughes firm has a deep bench of attorneys with years of experience in multiple legal practice areas to provide ample support.

Enclosed you will find the following:

- Certificate of Professional Liability Insurance;
- Completed Conflict of Interest Affidavit;
- Completed Certificate of Non-Collusion; and
- Completed State Finance Procurement Form

Applicant provides the following references:

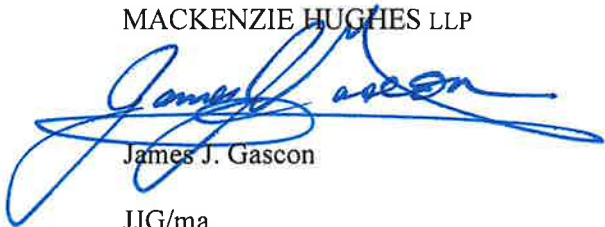
- Michael Mokrzycki Acting Executive Director, OCRRA
Telephone: (315) 453-2866
- John Fatcheric, Supervisor, Town of Camillus
Telephone: (315) 488-1335
- Michael LaVigne, Midstate Mutual Insurance Company
Telephone: (315) 294-6820

Additional references can be provided upon request.

We respectfully request that the OCRRA Board select James Gascon and the Mackenzie Hughes LLP to represent OCRRA as its general legal counsel.

Very truly yours,

MACKENZIE HUGHES LLP



James J. Gascon

JJG/ma

August 31, 2026



Michael Mokrzycki
Acting Agency Executive Director
Onondaga County Resource Recovery Agency
100 Elwood Davis Road
North Syracuse, NY 13212

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DIRECT DIAL: (315) 233-8338
EMAIL: JGASCON@MACKENZIEHUGHES.COM

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WWW.MACKENZIEHUGHES.COM

Michael Mokrzycki, Acting Agency Director
August 27, 2026
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OCRRA will make payment within thirty (30) days of receipt of an invoice.

TERMINATION AND FILE RETENTION

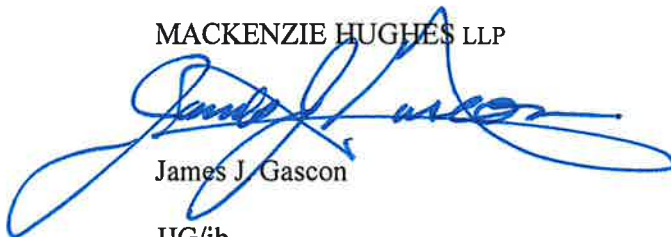
Either party may terminate for any reason notifying the other party and writing of the desire to do so. All records will be retained for a minimum of seven (7) years.

Any dispute between the parties regarding legal fees will be resolved by Arbitration pursuant to Part 137 of the Rules of Chief Administrator of New York courts.

Intending to be bound hereby the parties signed below.

Very truly yours,

MACKENZIE HUGHES LLP



James J. Gascon

JJG/jb

ONONDAGA RESOURCE RECOVERY AGENCY, INC.

By: _____
Michael Mokrzycki, Acting Director

Date: _____



MACKENZIE HUGHES LLP

Plain talk. Exceptional expertise.



James J. Gascon

Tel: (315) 233-8338

Fax: (315) 474-6409

jgascon@mackenziehughes.com

Jim is a partner in the Mackenzie Hughes litigation and business departments. He provides counsel to businesses and municipalities of all sizes from closely held companies to large multinationals and for profit companies to charities and municipalities. Jim's expertise on municipal matters has allowed him to assist many local towns, villages, planning and zoning boards. Jim has extensive litigation and insurance defense experience.

Practice Areas:

- Appellate Practice
- Business
- Environmental
- Insurance
- Land Use & Zoning
- Litigation
- Municipal
- Real Estate
- Tax

Admissions:

- New York State Bar
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of New York

Professional and Community Activities:

Current:

- New York State Bar Association
- New York State Trial Lawyers Association
- Multiple Sclerosis Association of Central New York

Prior:

- Rotary District 7150, District Governor
- Eastwood Rotary Club, Past President
- Rotary Club of Marcellus, Past President

Education:

- State University of New York at Cortland, B.A., magna cum laude, 1983
- Albany Law School of Union University, J.D., 1986



W. Bradley Hunt

Tel: (315) 233-8233
Fax: (315) 474-6409
bhunt@mackenziehughes.com

W. Bradley Hunt joined Mackenzie Hughes in 2004 and is a partner in the firm and a member of the firm's Executive Committee. His practice focuses on commercial litigation, general counsel work for governmental clients, and appeals and major motions. He lives in Syracuse with his wife and three sons. Brad enjoys spending time with his family, running, hiking, and playing various musical instruments.

Experience:

- Over twenty-five years of commercial litigation experience in state and federal courts.
- Serves as general counsel to public authorities and municipalities.
- Numerous appeals in state and federal courts including the New York Court of Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.
- Experienced in representing businesses appearing before planning and zoning boards.
- Joined Mackenzie Hughes in 2004 and now a partner in the firm.
- Worked at Mayer Brown in Chicago, one of the nation's preeminent firms, 1998-2003
- Law Clerk for Judge Pasco Bowman, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, 1997-1998

Professional and Community Activities: Current:

- Episcopal Diocese of Central New York; Chairman of the Constitution and Canons Committee, Co-Chair of the Resolutions Committee

Professional and Community Activities Cont'd: Prior:

- Onondaga Historical Association; Board Member and Secretary
- University Neighborhood Preservation Association, Board Member and Treasurer
- Leadership Greater Syracuse, Class of 2010
- Taught Advanced Litigation Skills course at Syracuse University Law School, 2018-2020

Practice Areas:

- Litigation
- Public Law & Policy
- Public Officers
- Appellate Practice
- Municipal
- Land Use & Zoning
- Construction
- Insurance
- Environmental
- Employee Benefits

Admissions:

- New York State Bar
- Illinois State Bar
- U.S. District Court, Northern District of New York
- U.S. District Court, Western District of New York
- United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit

Education:

- Juris Doctorate, University of Chicago School of Law, 1997
- Bachelor of Arts, Williams College, 1993

MACKENZIE HUGHES INFORMATION/HISTORY/BACKGROUND

Mackenzie Hughes LLP has been a leader in the Upstate New York legal community since 1884. Our 23 Partners and 5 Associates provide the full gamut of legal services to our governmental and business clients. We possess the resources of a large firm with a deep bench of talented attorneys, but we counsel our clients in a personable atmosphere. We are a place where real people with real know-how collaborate to solve real problems and help our clients make sensible business decisions. We take the confusion out of this complex profession and give our clients expert advice in terms people can use.

In the public sector, the Firm has acted as general corporate counsel to various municipalities and to public and municipal authorities including the Central New York Regional Transportation Authority and the Syracuse Housing Authority. Our work for these clients and other public entities has given our attorneys extensive experience with the Public Authorities Law, the Open Meetings Law, and the Freedom of Information Law. The services our firm has provided to public entities also include legal and regulatory compliance, attendance at board meetings, assistance in responding to FOIL requests, preparation of contracts, resolutions, minutes, and similar documents, and handling litigation ranging from torts to employment disputes to contractual disputes.

In the private sector, Mackenzie Hughes has been privileged to serve as counsel for entities such as the Syracuse Community Hotel Restoration Company 1, LLC and its affiliates which restored the long vacant Hotel Syracuse, creating hundreds of jobs and further catalyzing the revitalization of Downtown Syracuse. This project is just one example of how Mackenzie Hughes attorneys have worked closely with local and state governmental agencies as well as lenders of all sizes to assist our clients in bringing economic opportunity to the City of Syracuse. Our firm also has significant experience closing business loans for entities participating in IDA programs, PILOT agreements and subsidized projects, grants and loans with EDC, REDC, NYSERDA, etc., as well as assisting clients with labor and employment law matters, and providing general counsel services such as drafting and negotiating grant applications and all manner of contracts.

Our municipal law practice is among the strongest and most experienced in the region. We have served as general or special counsel to, among other municipalities, the County of Onondaga, the City of Syracuse, Cortland County, Oswego County, Town of DeWitt, Town of Manlius, Town of Van Buren, Town of Palermo, Town of Elbridge, Village of Manlius, Village of Elbridge, Village of Fayetteville, Village of Cleveland, Village of Morrisville, various school districts and the Metropolitan Water Board. We have provided a full range of services to these and other municipalities, including labor and employment, litigation, environmental, finance and taxation, zoning and planning, special districts, and of course general counsel, saving these municipalities from the costs, inefficiencies, headaches of having to retain multiple law firms to handle these important legal matters for a single municipality.

We have served as general counsel, and special counsel working closely with municipalities' existing counsel, for numerous public entities in public finance matters. The Firm has served as bond or issuer counsel, handling such issues as federal and state tax exemption, property taxes (including tax-free zones), bond anticipation notes, revenue anticipation notes, financing-related legislation and resolutions, public hearings, municipal banking and accounting, and all other matters relating to public finance.

We have assisted both governmental and non-governmental clients with the full range of real estate issues and transactions, including preparation and review of documents in connection with loans, funding and closings, promissory notes, security agreements, review of borrowers' applications and related documents, commitment letters, title abstracts and insurance, and other closing documents. Each year we complete more than 1,000 real estate transactions with a total value exceeding \$100 million.

Mackenzie Hughes has experience with land use and zoning as well. We have represented municipal boards (as well as owners, developers, lenders, and individuals) in the entire spectrum of commercial and residential transactions, including some of the largest developments in Central New York such as major shopping malls and related commercial establishments, office complexes, schools and commercial/residential planned unit developments.