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TO: The Honorable Members of the Board of County Commissioners

FROM: Jeffrey R. Smith, Clerk of the Circuit Court and Comptroller

DATE: May 10, 2023

RE: Legal Aid Program Funding for the Access to Justice/Self Help Center

Pursuant to Florida Statute 29.008(3), the Legislature delegated to the counties the responsibility to provide funding to legal aid programs. The United Way/Clerk's Office Access to Justice/Self-Help Center Program requests that the Board of County Commissioners authorize county staff to recommend that the county fulfill its funding requirements by allocating these funds to the Access to Justice/Self-Help Center for the budget year beginning October 1, 2023.

This is a program I have long desired to establish in our County's court system, and I am excited that our private sector partners have brought this to fruition.

Recommendation

I respectfully request the Board of County Commissioners authorize staff to allocate the Section 29.008(3) a funds to the United Way/Clerk's Office Access to Justice/Self Help Center for the budget year beginning October 1, 2023.