

ORDER NO. 3243

SIGNATURE DATE: September 24, 2002

Subject: Contracting with Lawyers and Law Firms by the Department of the Interior

Sec. 1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this Order is to assure compliance with the Departmental policy that the Solicitor is responsible for, and has supervision over, all of the legal work of the Department, except for the legal work of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, the Legislative Counsel's Office within the Office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs, the Office of Inspector General pursuant to Secretary's Order No. 3174 and the Memorandum of Understanding between the Solicitor and the Inspector General implementing that Order, or any departmental office explicitly authorized by statute to provide legal services.

Sec. 2 **Authority.** This Order is issued under the authority of Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1262), as amended.

Sec. 3 **Compliance with Policy.** The prior approval of the Solicitor is required for contracting for all services with lawyers or law firms, whether for legal or other services. The Solicitor may delegate this authority.

Sec. 4 **Exceptions.** The approval requirement of Section 3 does not apply to contracting with lawyers or law firms by the offices enumerated in Section 1.

Sec. 5 **Expiration Date.** This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until its provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first. In the absence of any of the foregoing actions, this Order will terminate and become obsolete on December 31, 2003.

/s/ Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

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