

**CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE  
SEPTEMBER 24, 2014 SPECIAL SESSION**

**LR No. 14-12**

Introduced by the Crow Tribal Legislature

A Legislative Resolution Titled:

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE AND  
APPROVE THE HIRING OF DAWN BITZ-RUNNING WOLF AS BRANCH  
ATTORNEY**

Legislative Findings:

**WHEREAS**, the Crow Tribal Legislature (hereinafter “Legislature”) has the power and duty under Article V, Section 2 of the Crow Tribal Constitution to promulgate and adopt resolutions in accordance with the Tribal Constitution and federal laws for the governance of the Crow Tribe; and

**WHEREAS**, the constitutional power and duty of the Legislature is exercised in accordance with the doctrine of separation of powers from the other branches of Crow Tribal Government; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2011 by passage of Legislative Resolution No. 11-17, the position of Legislative Branch staff attorney to provide the Legislature with professional in-house legal counsel separate and distinct from the attorneys of the Executive Branch and Judicial Branch of Tribal Government; and

**WHEREAS**, for several months the Legislature publicly advertised for an attorney position and, upon thorough review of all applicants, the Health and Human Services Committee held a meeting on September 11th, 2014 for the purpose of making an official recommendation to the full Legislature on the selection of an attorney; and

**WHEREAS**, Dawn Bitz-Running Wolf is a Montana licensed attorney with substantial experience in the practice of federal Indian law, including work as legal counsel for Montana Indian tribes and as a tribal court judge; and

**WHEREAS**, the Legislature now deems it necessary and proper to give final approval to the contract for legal services with Dawn Bitz-Running Wolf.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE IN  
SPECIAL SESSION:**

In accordance with Legislative Resolution No. 08-07, the Legislature hereby gives approval to and authorizes the Branch Officers to execute a contract for legal services with Dawn Bitz-Running Wolf.

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED:**

This tribal resolution shall take effect immediately upon becoming duly adopted by the Legislature.

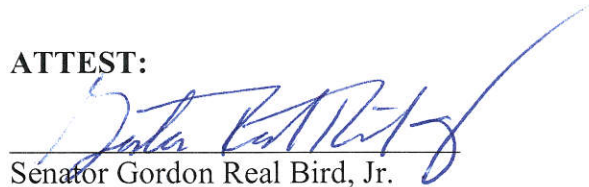
**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this Legislative Resolution titled **A RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE AND APPROVE THE HIRING OF DAWN BITZ-RUNNING WOLF AS BRANCH ATTORNEY** was duly adopted by the Crow Tribal Legislature with a vote of 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstained and that a quorum was present on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of September 2014.



Senator R. Knute Old Crow, Sr.  
Speaker of the House  
Crow Tribal Legislature

**ATTEST:**



Senator Gordon Real Bird, Jr.  
Secretary  
Crow Tribal Legislature



**A LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION OF THE CROW TRIBAL LEGISLATURE TO AUTHORIZE  
AND APPROVE THE HIRING OF DAWN BITZ-RUNNING WOLF AS BRANCH ATTORNEY**

**Bill or Resolution:** LR14-12 **Introduced by:** Crow Legislative Branch **Date of Vote:** 9/24/2014  
**Number**

<u><b>Representative:</b></u>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstained</b>
G. Three Irons	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
B. Rogers	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
C. J. Stewart	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
P. Hill	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
E. Birdinground	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
A. Coyote-Runs, Sr.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
V. Nomee	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
T. Gros Ventre	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
P. Alden, Jr.	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
V. Crooked Arm	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
P. Spotted Horse, Sr.	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
L. DeCrane	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
C. Goes Ahead	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
B. Hugs	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
B. Good Luck	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
G. Stewart	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
G. Real Bird, Jr. <i>Secretary of the House</i>	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
R. Old Crow, Sr. <i>Speaker of the House</i>	<u>  X  </u>	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u>
<b>Totals:</b>	<u>  14  </u>	<u>    0    </u>	<u>    0    </u>


Result of Vote:

**Passed**


**Not Passed**

**Tabled**

**Veto-Override**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator R. Knute Old Crow, Sr.  
Speaker of the House

9/24/14  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Senator Gordon Real Bird, Jr.  
Secretary of the House

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## **Crow Tribe of Indians Legislative Branch of Government**

### **Contract for Legal Services**

This Contract for Legal Services (hereinafter "Contract"), between the Crow Tribal Legislative Branch of Government (hereinafter "Legislature") and Dawn Bitz-Running Wolf (hereinafter "Attorney") dated this \_\_\_\_ day of September, 2014, is made for the purpose of and in consideration of the each of the foregoing:

**I. Nature of Contract.** This Contract is between the Legislature, as a separate and distinct branch of Crow Tribal Government, and the Attorney, as legal counselor and attorney at law for the Legislature as organizational client. This is a contract for legal services, both counsel and advocate through representation, as further described herein.

**II. Scope of Duties.** Attorney shall fulfill all duties and responsibilities as provided and described in Crow Tribal Legislative Resolution No. 11-17, and such additional specific duties and tasks as may be determined by the Legislature. In addition, the Attorney agrees to gain admission to practice in the courts of the Crow Tribal Judicial Branch of Government during calendar year 2015.

**III. Duration of Contract.** This Contract shall take effect on the first day of October, 2014 and shall be without time limitation and shall remain in effect for such time as the Legislature and Attorney elect not to terminate.

**IV. Time Commitment.** This is a contract for full-time, in-house legal services and Attorney shall be expected to provide an average of forty (40) hours of legal services at the Legislative Branch administrative building each week.

**V. Compensation.** Attorney shall be compensated at a rate of forty-dollars (\$40.00) per hour, up to a total of ninety-three thousand, six-hundred dollars (\$93,600.00) per year. Attorney shall be compensated for daily travel at a rate equal to the federal mileage standard rate for business travel, as determined by the Internal Revenue Service, from Billings to Crow Agency one-way. In addition, Attorney shall receive a one-time relocation expense payment in the amount of one-thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) on or about the first day of October, 2014.

**VI. Other Benefits.** The Legislature shall provide the Attorney with a computer and smartphone device for official tribal business purposes and reasonable, limited personal use. Attorney shall be eligible to receive travel expenses for official tribal business activities, including legal training, as may be approved in accordance with tribal policy established by the Legislature. No other benefits will be provided.



**VII. Initial Probationary Period.** Attorney shall be subject to an initial probationary period starting on the effective date and ending on the first day of the January 2015 quarterly legislative session. During the initial probationary period, the Legislature acting by and through the Branch Officers, shall have the ability to terminate this Contract upon seven (7) calendar days notice.

**VIII. Prohibition on Outside Employment.** Attorney shall not accept employment, by contract or otherwise, with any other person, firm, business, organization, or government, without the express written permission of the Speaker of the House. Provided that, Attorney shall be authorized to provide up to eighty (80) hours each year of pro bono legal services to low-income persons and charitable organizations located on or near the Crow Indian Reservation.

**IX. Standards of Professional Conduct.** Attorney shall be subject to the Montana Rules of Professional Conduct as established by the Montana Supreme Court and the Crow Tribal Court Rules of Professional Conduct. In the event of a conflict between the state and tribal rules governing the practice of law, the tribal rules shall apply.

**X. Supervision.** Attorney shall be under the day-to-day supervision of the Speaker of the House. The Speaker of the House shall communicate any significant issues concerning job performance or compliance with terms and conditions of this Contract to the Attorney in order to establish a corrective plan of action. If unsuccessful in establishing or implementing a corrective plan of action, the Speaker of the House shall immediately communicate such matters to the Legislature.


**XI. Termination.** The Legislature and Attorney may each, individually, terminate this Contract by providing notice in writing not less than (30) days prior to the termination date. The Legislature shall exercise final approval of termination by majority vote of a quorum in legislative session.

**XII. Modification.** This Contract may be modified at any time by mutual consent of the Legislature and Attorney. The Legislature shall exercise final approval of modifications by majority vote of a quorum in legislative session.

We, the undersigned, hereby our signatures below indicate our agreement to this Contract:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Bitz-Running Wolf  
Attorney

For the Legislature:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sen. R. Knute Old Crow  
Speaker of the House

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Sen. Gordon Real Bird, Jr.  
Secretary of the Legislature