

**SUBMITTED BY: EZEMENARI OBASI, PH.D., VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH**

**UNIVERSITY CONTRACT TO A COMPANY  
OWNED BY A COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES  
FACULTY MEMBER**

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Administration recommends that the Board of Governors authorize the President or her designee to enter into a contract with Forensic and Applied Research Services, LLC, a Ohio Limited Liability Corporation, for forensic anthropological consulting services provided to the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office.

**BACKGROUND**

Jaymelee J. Kim, Ph.D., is a mid-career anthropologist and began as an assistant professor of biological anthropology in Fall 2023 in Wayne State University's College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. In her position she is expected to conduct research within her area of specialization, teach biological anthropology courses, and provide service to the university through committee work.

Prior to taking the faculty position in Fall 2023, Dr. Kim (via her LLC) had been providing consultation services for the Wayne County Medical Examiner's Office (WCMEO) since 2019, prior to Wayne State University (WSU) starting oversight services on October 1, 2022. Her duties for the WCMEO include going to crime scenes, conducting search and recovery of human remains, removing soft tissue from remains, analyzing remains for trauma and pathology, estimating the biological profile, report writing, anthropological training, and representing the WCMEO in legal investigative contexts. For instance, she has also participated as a representative of the WCMEO in Operation UNITED, a joint effort between Detroit Police Department and the FBI to identify John and Jane Does in Wayne County. These duties were outlined in a contract between the University of Michigan and herself until WSU took over the partnership with the WCMEO. When WSU took over as partner with the WCMEO, Dr. Kim's consulting contract was completed through the WSU professional services agreement. The MEO contract was authorized by the Office of the Vice President for Research and managed in Sponsored Programs Administration.

Dr. Kim is an international expert in forensic human rights anthropology and has provided consultation for international, federal, and local governments in matters of human remains identification, medico-legal investigations, and mass disasters. She holds a Ph.D. from the renowned University of Tennessee's (UT) Forensic Anthropology Program – home to the first "body farm" or human decomposition research facility where she gained years of experience. She has also worked in various capacities in diverse forensic laboratories, including the UT Anthropological Research Facility, Knox County Medical Examiner's Office, and Regional

Forensic Center. Dr. Kim holds the prestigious status as a diplomate of the American Board of Forensic Anthropologists (ABFA), being one of only about 115 active board certified forensic anthropologists in the United States.

Her extensive training and certification make her uniquely qualified to conduct this extensive work, which under the National Association of Medical Examiner's laboratory accreditation requires board certification.

Dr. Kim established the Forensic and Applied Research Services, a limited liability corporation incorporated in the State of Ohio in 2022, to formalize Dr. Kim's consulting business. Dr. Kim is the sole member of the company, located at 205 19<sup>th</sup> Street, Findlay, OH 45840.

Michigan Conflict of Interest law requires specific sunshine procedures in order for a university employee, or a company owned by a University employee, to contract directly or indirectly with the University:

- (A) The employee must disclose any pecuniary interest in the contract to the Board and the disclosure must be made a matter of record in the Board's proceedings.
- (B) The contract must be approved by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the full membership of the Board in open session.
- (C) The Board's minutes must report:
  - (i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
  - (ii) The terms of the contract, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the contract, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the contract.
  - (iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

If the Board approves this Recommendation, the minutes will report as follows:

The Board of Governors authorized the President, or her designee, to enter into a contract with Forensic and Applied Research Services, LLC, in which Dr. Jaymelee J. Kim is sole member.

- (i) The parties involved in the contract are Wayne State University and Forensic and Applied Research Services, LLC.

- (ii) The contract will provide:
  - (a) The contract service period will be September 2, 2023 through September 30, 2027. The financial consideration for this contract is \$60,000 per year for a total of \$240,000 for all four years.
  - (b) Jaymelee J. Kim, Ph.D., will provide forensic anthropological services, as requested by the Wayne County Medical Examiner Office under the authority of the Chief Medical Examiner and the Chief Operating Officer. Services will include search and recovery of human remains; evaluation of human from non-human remains; analysis and investigations of cold cases and unidentified remains; and osteological analyses of human remains.
- (iii) Dr. Kim has unique scientific expertise and experience which are critical in determining the cause/manner of death. Dr. Kim's pecuniary interest consists of a one hundred percent (100%) ownership of Forensic and Applied Research Services, LLC. She will therefore financially benefit from the success of the company.