



ANTHONY G. BROWN, MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL

# STATEMENT

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## Attorney General Brown's Statement on Maryland Transportation Authority Approval for Assistant Counsel for Potential Key Bridge Collapse Litigation

**BALTIMORE, MD (May 13, 2024)** – Attorney General Anthony Brown announced today that the Maryland Transportation Authority (MDTA) Board has approved his request for a “contingent fee contract” for a team of five law firms that will work as his Assistant Counsel to pursue litigation against the parties responsible for the Francis Scott Key Bridge Collapse. The contingent fee arrangement means that outside counsel will be paid from any damages recovered by the state. The request will now be submitted to the Board of Public Works (BPW) for approval at its meeting on Wednesday, May 15, 2024.

“On behalf of the affected state agencies and the people of Maryland, we will pursue compensation from the responsible parties for the damages caused by the M/V Dali’s allision with the Key Bridge,” **said Attorney General Brown.** “To do that effectively, the OAG has assembled a team of law firms that has deep expertise in maritime disasters, tort litigation, insurance recovery, and dispute resolution. Selected through an open, competitive process, the firms include Kelley Drye & Warren, Liskow and Lewis, Partridge LLC, The Lanier Firm, and, serving as local counsel, the Maryland firm of Downs Ward Bender Herzog & Kintigh. Together, these firms will serve as Assistant Counsel, working as part of the Attorney General’s team, to explore and pursue possible litigation to remedy the immediate and ongoing harms caused by the bridge collapse.

“Today, I thank the Maryland Transportation Authority for its prompt consideration and approval of this important request. I also offer thanks to Willcox & Savage, a maritime firm that serves as Assistant Counsel on another OAG matter, for assisting on an interim basis and providing critical advice as we proceeded with our competitive selection process. Because of its immediate availability and diligence, we were able to jumpstart our efforts to protect the state’s interests from ‘Day 1’. We appreciate Wilcox and Savage’s ongoing assistance as we transition to the newly selected team.”

<https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/press/2023/051324s.pdf>

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