

Should you be sitting in cash right now?

If you have a \$500,000 portfolio, download the latest report by *Forbes* columnist Ken Fisher's firm. It tells you where we think the market is headed and why. This must-read report includes research and analysis you won't find anywhere else. Don't miss it! [Click Here to Download Your Report!](#)

FISHER INVESTMENTS*

Dow Jones Reprints: This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. To order presentation-ready copies for distribution to your colleagues, clients or customers, use the Order Reprints tool at the bottom of any article or visit www.djreprints.com

[See a sample reprint in PDF format.](#)

[Order a reprint of this article now](#)

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

WSJ.com

NY REGION | September 22, 2013, 10:11 p.m. ET

Sandy Relief Contractor Used Local Lawyer in Its Bid

The Louisiana firm awarded a contract to run New Jersey's main federally funded housing [programs](#) for superstorm Sandy victims received some local help when it submitted its 2013 bid.

Glenn Paulsen, the former chief of the Burlington County Republicans, acted as Hammerman & Gainer Inc.'s legal counsel when they submitted a bid in April to run two Sandy relief programs, according to their bid. HGI's \$68 million bid was \$127 million lower than the only competing offer and had more experience in [disaster recovery](#) work, according to the selection committee. HGI was chosen.

As the state was completing contracts for Sandy, the law firm where Mr. Paulsen is a managing shareholder, Capehart Scatchard, made a \$25,000 donation to the Republican Governors Association in May, according to the association's [tax form](#) contributions list. As a firm with significant state business, Capehart Scatchard is prohibited from giving New Jersey Gov. [Chris Christie](#) more than \$300 in campaign contributions. But it can give much more to independent political groups such as the RGA. Mr. Christie is slated to become RGA president in 2014 if he wins re-election.

More

[Sandy Contractor Draws Fire in Home-Reconstruction Effort](#)

Mr. Christie's office referred questions to the Department of Community Affairs. The agency's chief, Richard Constable, said he knew nothing about Mr. Paulsen's work on the bid or his firm's contributions.

"It's of no moment whether Glenn Paulsen works for HGI or not in terms of the rationale and the rational of giving HGI the contract," he said.

Cherie Pinac, HGI's chief operating officer, said the firm hired Capehart Scatchard as a local law firm for the bid, but knew nothing about the firm's donations. Mr. Paulsen, Capehart Scatchard and the RGA didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

HGI didn't give Mr. Christie or the RGA any campaign contributions. At least two other companies with Sandy-related contracts gave to the association this year. Jeff Brindle, executive director of the state Election Law Enforcement Commission, said there are no New Jersey laws barring in-state contributions made to organizations like the RGA and the practice was legal.

Heather Taylor of the Citizens Campaign, a government-transparency group, said the practice of firms with state business giving to the RGA "warrants a closer look."

—Heather Haddon

*A version of this article appeared September 23, 2013, on page A22 in the U.S. edition of [The Wall Street Journal](#) with the headline: *Sandy Relief Contractor Used Local Lawyer in its Bid.**

Copyright 2012 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com