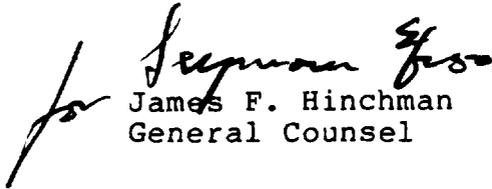


contracts. The regulation provides, however, that the requirement is subject to certain limited exceptions, one of which is statutory authorization permitting contracting without providing for free and open competition, such as the 8(a) program. FAR § 6.302-5(4).

Finally, Bucky argues that SBA violated the requirement that there be a reasonable expectation that offers will be obtained from at least two responsible small business concerns in FAR § 19.502-2. That regulation applies to small business set-asides, which are competitive, not to 8(a) contracts.

The protest is denied.

 James F. Hinchman  
General Counsel