

Establishing A Best
Practices Approach for
Securing Professional
Services

**Anthony Manley** 

### **About KeyCorp**

- A national bank operating 946 branches in 13 states
- Over 2,100 ATMs
- Manage over \$95 Billion in assets
- Over 19,900 employees
- Ranked 325 in the Fortune 500
- Annual Revenue of \$4.9 billion (2005)
- Headquartered in Cleveland, Ohio



## **About Corporate Sourcing**

- Ten Strategists (buyers)
- Six Negotiators (attorneys)
- Procure ~ \$700 million annually
- Corporate wide responsibility
- Close cooperation with AP and facility operations
- Execute ~ 2,000 contracts annually

Plus a Supplier Management group that provides guidelines and processes for managing targeted suppliers



#### **Common Pitfalls**

What are frequent, common pitfalls encountered when buying professional services?

- Not receiving what you thought you were buying
- Scope creep (with cost escalations)
- Failure to deliver to your satisfaction
- Reluctance to agree to your contract T&Cs



# **Buying major purchases**

What should you be doing?

- 1. Research
- 2. Negotiate
- 3. Manage Delivery



## When buying – do research!

- What's available?
  - ► RFPs
- Options?
  - ➤ On-site demos
- Reliability/applicability/cost?



### When buying – negotiate the best deal

- Need to understand the supplier
  - ▶ What drives them?
  - ▶ What makes a 'coveted customer'?
  - ➤ When is quarter end/year end?
  - Ask open-ended questions when conducting reference checks.
- What is your bottom line ('must have')?



### When buying – manage through delivery

- Co-develop, then monitor milestones
- Include maintenance/upkeep
- Use scorecard (developed first at RFP then refined through negotiation stage)
- Be prepared with a 'Plan B' (and let it be known)



#### 7 Essentials to a Solid SOW

- Start and End dates
- Services to be rendered
- Co-dependencies (e.g. your end)
- Total Cost, plus payment stream
- Deliverables
- Resources (by name)
- Legal T&Cs



### Position for advantage in the Unknown Deal

- 1. Establish Legal T&Cs (require SOWs)
- 2. Set pricing grid (volume discount)
- 3. Pay upon delivery
- 4. Make commitments of 'If, then ...'
- 5. Tie in element of satisfaction
- 6. Check references before negotiations are concluded

