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Texas Ethics Commission Announces New Executive Director

AUSTIN—The Texas Ethics Commission (Commission) is pleased to announce the appointment of Seana Willing as its new executive director. Ms. Willing will assume the office on February 13, 2017, following the retirement of Natalia Luna Ashley as executive director on December 31, 2016.

For the past 13 years, Ms. Willing has served as executive director of the State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC), and previously served the agency as general counsel and commission counsel. Ms. Willing has also served the State Bar of Texas as assistant disciplinary counsel. Ms. Willing is an attorney licensed by the State Bar of Texas and she received a juris doctor from St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio, Texas, and a bachelor's degree in economics from the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts.

The Commission's primary goal is to promote public confidence in electoral and governmental processes by enforcing and administering certain laws, including campaign finance, lobby, and personal financial disclosure laws. The SCJC has a similar mission to protect the public; promote public confidence in the integrity, independence, competence, and impartiality of the judiciary; and encourage judges to maintain high standards of conduct.

Before her retirement from the Commission, Ms. Ashley served the agency with distinction in various capacities for 22 years. Ms. Ashley was the Commission's executive director since 2014, during which time the Commission released four new electronic filing applications to improve compliance and transparency. Ms. Ashley has also served as the Commission's interim executive director, special counsel, general counsel, and assistant general counsel.

Commission Chair Chase Untermeyer stated, "As much as we regret losing the superb services and deep knowledge of Natalia Ashley, the Commission welcomes Seana Willing as our new executive director with every confidence in her leadership."

The Commission also unanimously appointed Ian M. Steusloff to serve as interim executive director from January 1, 2017, to February 12, 2017. Mr. Steusloff has served the Commission since 2015 as general counsel and since 2004 as assistant general counsel.

The Commission made the appointments in a public meeting in Dallas, Texas, on December 20, 2016.

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