



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
PRESS RELEASE

Ethics Commission

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ETHICS COMMISSION SELECTS GENERAL COUNSEL

Stacey Fulhorst, Executive Director of the City of San Diego Ethics Commission, announced today the Commission's selection of Cristie McGuire to serve as part-time General Counsel for the Ethics Commission. Ms. McGuire had a distinguished twenty-one-year career as a Deputy City Attorney, during which time she specialized in local and state laws governing campaign finance issues, municipal lobbying, and conflict of interest regulations. She has extensive experience with respect to the provision of verbal and written advice to City officials and employees. In addition, while she was with the Office of the City Attorney, she worked closely with the Office of the City Clerk on drafting legislative amendments concerning the City's campaign finance and lobbying laws. Ms. McGuire holds a Bachelor of Arts from Smith College and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Oregon.

Ms. McGuire is well prepared to serve as the legal advisor for the Ethics Commission. Her unique qualifications will provide for a seamless transition from the Commission's prior arrangement with the City Attorney's Office, and will enable the Commission to continue to

serve the public and City Officials without a significant pause in any of its efforts. Moreover, Ms. McGuire is well-suited to assist the Commission with an assessment concerning its future staffing needs, and a determination regarding whether a part-time attorney will suffice.

The creation of the Ethics Commission General Counsel position was made possible with voter approval of Proposition E in the November 2004 general election. This ballot measure modified the City Charter to enable the Ethics Commission to obtain legal advice independent of the City Attorney's Office. The measure was recommended by the Ethics Commission to address the fact that the City Attorney's Office advises City Officials who are subject to investigation by the Commission, and the fact that the Commission's enforcement actions may involve staff in the City Attorney's Office or candidates seeking the office of City Attorney.

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