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> Commissioners Peter L. Cruise, Chair Michael S. Kridel, Vice Chair Rodney G. Romano Carol E. A. DeGraffenreidt Michael H. Kugler

> > Executive Director Mark E. Bannon

General Counsel Christie E. Kelley

Intake & Compliance Manager Gina A. Levesque

> Investigator Abigail Irizarry

Investigator Mark A. Higgs

## **News Release**

For immediate release: Contact: November 5, 2021 Mark E. Bannon, Executive Director (561) 355-1937

## Summary of Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics Meeting Held on November 4, 2021

The Palm Beach County Commission on Ethics (COE) took the following action at its monthly public meeting held on November 4, 2021, to interview candidates for the Executive Director position.

The COE selected Christie Kelley, as its next executive director. Kelley will succeed Mark Bannon, who is retiring at the end of December after leading the Commission on Ethics organization since 2015. Prior to her selection, Kelley served as the Commission on Ethics general counsel for the past eight years.

Prior to joining the COE, Kelley served as Assistant Director in the Center for Career Development at the University of Florida Levin College of Law, where she focused on advising students interested in government or public interest careers and oversaw the pro bono, public interest, and community service programs. In addition, Kelley is a former Assistant State Attorney in Florida's Fifth Judicial Circuit.

Ms. Kelley is a member of the Florida Bar. She earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration (summa cum laude) from the University of Florida and a Juris Doctor from the University of Florida Levin College of Law (cum laude).

The mission of the COE is to foster integrity in public services, to promote the public's trust and confidence in that service, and to prevent conflicts between private interests and public duties. The COE accomplishes this mission by conducting ongoing educational programs, community outreach, providing clear and timely advice, and fairly and impartially interpreting and enforcing the conflict of interest and financial disclosure laws. In doing so, the commission is guided by principles of fairness, clarity, and common sense.

A detailed explanation of all agenda items is available at <a href="http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/meetings.htm">http://www.palmbeachcountyethics.com/meetings.htm</a>. # # #