

State Commission on Judicial Conduct



January 30, 2017

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUSTIN – The **State Commission on Judicial Conduct (SCJC)** is pleased to announce the appointment of **Eric Vinson** as its new executive director. Mr. Vinson will assume the office on February 13, 2017, following the departure of Seana Willing, who has been appointed to serve as the Executive Director of the Texas Ethics Commission.

Mr. Vinson graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 1997. His practice in the private sector focused on commercial and employment litigation. In 2008, he joined the Texas Attorney General’s office, representing numerous state agencies and universities in employment and constitutional matters. He has served as deputy director of the SCJC since August 2015.

The mission of the thirteen-member SCJC is 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 both on and off the bench. The SCJC accomplishes this mission through its investigation of allegations of judicial misconduct or incapacity. In cases where a judge is found to have engaged in misconduct or to be permanently incapacitated, the Texas Constitution authorizes the SCJC to take appropriate disciplinary action, including issuing sanctions, censures, suspensions, or recommendations for removal from office.

Ms. Willing departs the SCJC after seventeen and a half years, having served as its Executive Director since June 2003. She also served as General Counsel from 2001-2003, and as a staff attorney from 1999-2001. During her time as Executive Director, Ms. Willing has successfully led the agency through six legislative sessions, including a Sunset Commission review, and has provided judges throughout Texas with thoughtful guidance in the area of judicial ethics and discipline. As an expert in the field, Ms. Willing has frequently been invited to speak and write on these subjects both locally and nationally, and to teach judges from other countries about the SCJC and its mission.

The SCJC and its Chair, Valerie Ertz, extend best wishes to Ms. Willing in her new position and thank her for her many years of service to the SCJC, the Texas judiciary, and the citizens of Texas. The SCJC welcomes Mr. Vinson as the agency’s new Executive Director and looks forward to working with him as the agency continues in its mission of service to the citizens of Texas. According to Ms. Ertz, “Mr. Vinson is a very talented and knowledgeable individual and is a great asset to the agency.”

For more information about the SCJC, please contact us at (512) 463-5533 or visit our website at www.scjc.texas.gov.