

Philadelphia Board of Ethics

Contact: J. Shane Creamer, Jr., Executive Director, 215-686-9450

For Immediate Release: December 20, 2012

Philadelphia Board of Ethics Approves New Officers

PHILADELPHIA – The Philadelphia Board of Ethics unanimously voted Michael H. Reed, Esq. to be its new Chair and Judge Phyllis W. Beck (Ret.) to be its new Vice-Chair, at its public meeting on December 19, 2012.

“I am honored to assume the leadership of the Board after the distinguished term of service of my predecessor as chairperson, Richard Glazer,” said Mr. Reed. “I hope and expect to continue the standard of excellence, integrity and independence in the work of the Board established under his leadership. I also hope that the Board will be able to increase its educational and outreach efforts.”

Mr. Reed, a partner with Pepper Hamilton LLP, is a 1969 graduate of Temple University (B.A. Pol. Sci.) and received his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1972. He has been associated with the firm of Pepper Hamilton LLP since 1972 and became a partner in 1980. He concentrates his practice in corporate restructuring and bankruptcy law. Mr. Reed is a past President of the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is the State Delegate for Pennsylvania in the ABA House of Delegates, having previously served on the ABA’s Board of Governors. Mr. Reed was previously a member of the Pennsylvania Judicial Inquiry and Review Board and chaired the Professional Guidance (Ethics) Committee of the Philadelphia Bar Association. Prior to joining the Board of Ethics, Mr. Reed was a member of the Committee of Seventy for 30 years. Mr. Reed had served as Vice-Chair of the Board of Ethics since April 2011 and his term runs until November 2015.

Judge Beck is a retired judge and chairman and chief financial officer of the Independence Foundation. Judge Beck served as Vice Dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School from 1976 to 1981, when she was appointed as the first woman to serve on the Superior Court. She has also served as general counsel to the Barnes Foundation. As chair of the Governor’s Commission on Judicial Reform, Judge Beck authored a 260-page report recommending major structural reform in Pennsylvania’s Judicial System. The American Judicature Society awarded her the Herbert Harley Award for her leadership role in the field, especially her work with Pennsylvanians for Modern Courts. Judge Beck was a founding member and president of Philadelphia Futures, an organization devoted to mentoring children. Judge Beck has served on the Board of Ethics since April 2011. She was recently reappointed to the Board by Mayor Michael Nutter, receiving unanimous confirmation by City Council on December 13, 2012. Her new term runs until November 2017.

Chair Reed succeeds Richard Glazer, Esq., who served as the Board of Ethics' first Chair from November 2006. Mr. Glazer's term expired in November 2012, and Mayor Nutter appointed Brian J. McCormick, Jr., Esq. to succeed him. Mr. McCormick's appointment was unanimously confirmed by City Council on December 13, 2012.

Mr. McCormick is the managing partner at Sheller, P.C. in Philadelphia. He has represented whistleblowers in several major cases. His practice includes pharmaceutical injury, consumer protection, products liability and mass tort litigation, as well as complex commercial litigation matters. A native of Philadelphia, Brian is active in the community and has performed substantial *pro bono* work on behalf of impoverished clients in Philadelphia. He served until recently as a member of the Committee of Seventy. His civic service also includes being selected by Mayor Michael Nutter in 2009 to serve as a member of the Mayor's Task Force on Ethics and Campaign Finance Reform. The final report of the Task Force was issued in late 2009 and, among many recommendations, included the recommendation to create the City's new lobbying law. Mr. McCormick's term runs until November 2016.

Sanjuanita González, Esq. is the Board of Ethics' fourth member. She has served since January 2011. There is currently one vacancy on the Board.

The Philadelphia Board of Ethics is a five-member independent board established by ordinance, approved by Philadelphia voters in May 2006, and installed on November 27, 2006. It is charged with providing ethics training for all City employees and enforcing City campaign finance, financial disclosure and conflict of interest laws. The Ethics Board has authority to render advice, investigate complaints and issue fines.

###