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TEXAS ATTORNEY GENERAL-ELECT KEN PAXTON ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP TEAM

Texas Attorney General-Elect Ken Paxton today announced his leadership team, in addition to the previous announcement of Chip Roy as First Assistant Attorney General.

“I am proud to announce a highly-qualified and diverse team who will serve in key leadership roles at the Office of the Attorney General,” said Paxton. “These highly-respected professionals and brilliant legal minds bring impressive public and private sector experience. I look forward to working with this team of committed public servants who will continue an already proven track record of promoting and defending conservative principles.”

Chief of Staff Bernard L. McNamee II

Bernie McNamee has served in a number of legal, policy, and political roles throughout his career. Prior to joining Attorney General-elect Paxton as Chief of Staff, he served as Senior Domestic Policy Advisor and Counsel to United States Senator Ted Cruz of Texas. Before that he was a partner with the national law firm of McGuireWoods LLP. McNamee's experience also includes serving three Virginia Attorneys General in capacities as Chief Deputy Attorney General of Virginia, Chief Counsel to the Attorney General, and Deputy Attorney General. He also served as legal counsel and policy advisor to the governor of Virginia and policy director for a successful U.S. Senate candidate.

McNamee grew up in Houston. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from Emory University.

Deputy Attorney General for Administration Katherine “Missy” Minter Cary

Missy Cary has 17 years of service with the Attorney General’s Office serving in key capacities, most recently as General Counsel. Previously, she served as chief of the Open Records Division, Public Information Coordinator and a litigator in the Administrative Law Division. Cary also served as an assistant general counsel at the Texas General Land Office and the Texas Lottery Commission. She was awarded the James Madison Award in 2003 from the Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas for her help in protecting the public’s right to know. She received a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and a law degree from St. Mary’s University.

Amanda “Mandy” Crawford will assume the role of General Counsel; she is currently chief of the Open Records Division and has been with the Attorney General’s Office since 1999.

Director of Communications Allison Castle

Allison Castle is Deputy Commissioner for Public Affairs at the Texas Department of Insurance. She previously served as Governor Rick Perry’s communications director and in various capacities in the governor’s office, including press secretary, deputy press secretary and special advisor. Before joining the governor’s staff, she was a senior associate at ROSS Communications and also worked in communications at the Texas Credit Union League and the Comptroller of Public Accounts. She received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas.

Deputy Attorney General for Civil Litigation Jim Davis

Jim Davis is a partner in the Austin office of Locke Lord and the firm’s head of regulatory and administrative litigation. Davis has extensive experience in civil litigation matters centered on the intersection of government and business, and has represented many business and governmental entities in civil investigations and litigation pending in state and federal trial and appellate courts. He served four years in the United States Navy as a cryptologic intelligence specialist stationed in the U.S. Naval Security Group at RAF Edzell, Scotland. After graduation from law school, Davis served as briefing attorney to Texas Supreme Court Justice Alberto Gonzales. Davis received a bachelor’s degree from the University of Texas and a law degree from Harvard Law School.

Solicitor General Scott Keller

Scott Keller most recently served as U.S. Senator Ted Cruz's chief counsel. Before joining the Senator's staff, Keller was an attorney at Yetter Coleman LLP in Austin, Texas. Scott clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Anthony Kennedy, was a Bristow Fellow in the U.S. Department of Justice Office of the Solicitor General, and clerked for Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Keller received a bachelor's degree in political science and philosophy from Purdue University and a law degree from the University of Texas.

Director of Scheduling Katie Lawhon

Katie Lawhon is executive assistant to the senior advisor/deputy chief of staff and legislative director in the Governor's Office. She previously worked for Comptroller Susan Combs on scheduling and special events. Lawhon worked on Capitol Hill for U.S. Senator Trent Lott at the Rules and Administration Committee, U.S. Senator Judd Gregg at the Senate Budget Committee, and Congressman Brian Kerns. Lawhon was born and raised in East Texas. She received a bachelor's degree from the University of Mississippi.

Deputy Chief of Staff Steve Roddy

Steve Roddy will serve as deputy chief of staff with a focus on government affairs and executive administration. He served as Attorney General-Elect Paxton's chief of staff in his senate office for the last two years. Previously he was the director of policy and planning for the Texas Health Services Authority (THSA). He served for nearly two decades in the Texas Senate, of which 14 years were with Senator Jane Nelson including roles as chief of staff, legislative director, Senate Nominations Committee, Special Committee on Prompt Payment of Health Care Providers and Senate Health and Human Services Committee Director. He received a bachelor's degree in History from Baylor University and a Master of Divinity (Ethics) from Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth.

Deputy for Child Support Charles Smith

Charles Smith is the deputy for Child Support and will continue to serve in that capacity, a position he was appointed to by Attorney General Greg Abbott in 2013. Smith previously served nine years as the division's deputy director. He

has more than 26 years of experience in the child support division. Smith is a nationally recognized leader in the child support arena and currently serves as president-elect for the National Child Support Enforcement Association. Smith is a native west Texan. He received a bachelor's degree from Texas Tech University.

Deputy Attorney General for Legal Counsel Brantley Starr

Brantley Starr has served as staff attorney to Texas Supreme Court Justice Eva M. Guzman for the last three years. Prior to that, he practiced commercial and appellate litigation at King & Spalding LLP in Austin. Before entering private practice, Starr served as an Assistant Solicitor General under Ted Cruz and James C. Ho. Starr began his legal career advising then-Deputy Attorney General for Legal Counsel Don R. Willett. Starr later served as briefing attorney for Justice Willett upon his appointment to the Texas Supreme Court. Starr received his bachelor's degree from Abilene Christian University and a law degree from the University of Texas.

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