



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2013

**Commissioner Donelon Names New Deputy Commissioner of
Property & Casualty and Executive Counsel**

Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon announced today that Executive Counsel Warren Byrd has been appointed to the position of Deputy Commissioner of the Office of Property and Casualty in the Louisiana Department of Insurance (LDI). Arlene Knighten, who has been serving as Deputy General Counsel, will assume the position of Executive Counsel. Both appointments are effective immediately.

The Office of Property & Casualty is responsible for the regulation of all commercial and personal lines of property and casualty insurance in the state of Louisiana. This includes but is not limited to homeowners, auto and workers' compensation insurance.

Citing Byrd's varied insurance and legal experience, Donelon said he is an ideal choice to accomplish the long-term goals, as well as manage the day-to-day operations of the Office of Property and Casualty. "We have come a long way in the property and casualty market over the last seven years but it is critical for us to keep the momentum moving forward. Warren is the right leader at the right time to help us achieve that," Donelon said. "Warren is the consummate professional and I know his experience will be a real benefit to consumers and insurers alike in the critical Office of Property and Casualty."

Byrd joined the LDI in 2004 and worked primarily with the Office of Property and Casualty before being appointed to serve as Executive Counsel in 2006. Prior to that, he served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice and also worked for the law firm of Adams and Reese. Byrd currently serves as Chairman of the Louisiana Automobile Theft and Insurance Fraud Prevention Authority and on the board of the Property Insurance Association of Louisiana. He replaces Ed O'Brien who has retired from the LDI.

Donelon pointed to Knighten's extensive legal background as well as her effective management style in his decision to appoint her Executive Counsel. Key responsibilities of the Legal Division center on legislation, regulatory policies and legal opinions.

“Arlene’s extensive knowledge of regulatory policies along with her leadership skills made her a clear choice for Executive Counsel,” said Commissioner Donelon. “Since being appointed Deputy General Counsel earlier this year, Arlene has spearheaded numerous projects to streamline operations and enhance efficiencies. She has demonstrated that she is a significant asset to the LDI and I look forward to expanding her influence in this greater role,” Commissioner Donelon said.

Knighten joined the Louisiana Department of Insurance in 2004 as a staff attorney and has since served as Supervising Attorney and Deputy General Counsel. Prior to that, she served as an Assistant Attorney General with the Louisiana Department of Justice. Knighten has served in leadership roles in numerous professional and legal organizations including Board Member at-Large of the National Bar Association and President of the Louisiana Association of Black Women Attorneys.

About the Louisiana Department of Insurance: *The Louisiana Department of Insurance works to improve competition in the state’s insurance market while assisting individuals and businesses with the information and resources they need to be informed consumers of insurance. As a regulator, the LDI enforces the laws that provide a fair and stable marketplace and makes certain that insurers comply with the laws in place to protect policyholders. You can contact the LDI by calling 1-800-259-5300 or visiting www.ldi.la.gov.*