



UTAH STATE LEGISLATURE

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Legislative Management Committee Appoints Victoria Ashby As General Counsel

SALT LAKE CITY – The Legislative Management Committee (LMC) appointed Victoria Ashby to serve as the Utah State Legislature’s new general counsel. Ashby will succeed John Fellows, who announced his retirement after 37 years working for the Legislature, 14 of which he served as the general counsel. Ashby will assume the role of general counsel on January 1, 2023.

“Victoria has shown immense skill and leadership as an associate general counsel, and I am confident in her ability to take on this new role,” said President J. Stuart Adams. “I look forward to working with Victoria and appreciate her willingness to serve in this capacity. I also want to acknowledge and thank John Fellows for his dedicated work on behalf of the state of Utah. He’s been a valuable legislative staff member and has provided excellent counsel throughout his career.”

“John Fellows leaves behind a legacy of commitment and devotion to the Utah State Legislature, the legislative process, and the legal workings of government,” said Speaker Brad Wilson. “We will miss him greatly, but are thrilled to announce Victoria as the new general counsel. I have been impressed with Victoria’s vast expertise and leadership abilities and look forward to working closely with her to serve the people of the state of Utah.”

“The role of the legislative general counsel is essential to the day-to-day operation of the Legislature and to the Office of Legislative Research and General Counsel,” said Senate Minority Leader Karen Mayne. “John Fellows has devoted decades of skillful direction and exceptional research and legal expertise. His knowledge, sharp awareness and commitment to service is unique and beyond comparison. Victoria will go above and beyond to carry out the duties of general counsel in an objective, fair and thoughtful way, assisting all legislators no matter where they fall on the political spectrum. Thorough policy analysis, dependable legal assistance and the utmost proficiency in management has ensured a smooth operation that has benefited staff, lawmakers and the people of Utah.”

“The general counsel plays an integral role in the success of the Utah State Legislative,” said House Minority Leader Brian King. “I have no doubt Victoria will take on this new responsibility with professionalism and dedication and look forward to seeing all she will accomplish. I appreciate all John Fellows did to serve the Legislature and wish him all the best in his next stage of life.”

Ashby received her bachelor's degree in English from Utah State University, a master's degree in communication from Westminster College and her law degree from the S.J. Quinney College of Law. She was previously an associate general counsel for the Office of Research and General Counsel and the director of government relations for the Utah League of Cities and Towns.

As the Legislature's general counsel, Ashby will be the lead attorney providing nonpartisan legal representation to the legislative branch. The general counsel reports to the Legislative Management Committee, its chairs and the Utah Legislature.

Early today, the Legislative Research and General Counsel Subcommittee, comprised of an equal number of majority and minority committee members – President Adams, Speaker Wilson, Sen. Mayne, Sen. Luz Escamilla, Rep. Mike Schultz and Rep. Brian King – recommended Ashby to the full LMC for appointment.

The LMC appointment is subject to confirmation by the full Legislature. The Legislature will vote on Ashby's appointment in a joint resolution during the 2023 General Session. The joint resolution will appoint Ashby to a six-year term, subject to renewal.

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