



Media Release

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DHS Legal Chief Hopkins to retire, White Named to Post

Breck Hopkins, director of the Arkansas Department of Human Services Office of Policy and Legal Services, is retiring July 1st after a 36-year career with DHS. He joined DHS in 1978 as a regional attorney in Batesville. He was named DHS Chief Counsel in 2007 and later became OPLS director when the department's policy section was combined with the Office of Chief Counsel.

During Hopkins' long tenure with DHS, he was responsible for a number of changes that improved and clarified legal services within the department. He developed the first computer-based case management system for the Office of Chief Counsel and wrote the Child Custody Chapter of the Arkansas Bar Manual. In duties related to his work at DHS, he attended the National Judicial College.

In addition to Hopkins' work at DHS, Governor Beebe appointed him to serve as the chairman of the Health Permit Services Agency for the State of Arkansas.

"Breck has long been the department's go-to guy on legal matters in nearly any division or on any issue," said DHS Director John Selig. "His knowledge of the law related to everything from Medicaid to child care issues is staggering. He will be greatly missed."

Mark White, chief counsel for the OPLS, will succeed Hopkins as director of the office. The Office of Policy and Legal Services oversees all legal matters in DHS including court-ordered protection of abused or neglected children, eligibility reviews for DHS programs, contract review, policy development, legislation, civil rights compliance and employee grievance issues.

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White came to DHS with more than a decade of state government experience. He joined DHS in April 2013 as chief attorney for OPLS. He has been an attorney for more than 15 years and previously worked for 10 years as an attorney for the Arkansas Department of Education and as an Administrative Law judge with the Arkansas Workers Compensation Commission. During his career with the state, he has worked through eight legislative sessions. His primary experience has been in administrative, health, employment, insurance and education law. White is currently a member of the Arkansas Attorney General's State Task Force for the Prevention of Human Trafficking. He has also served as Special Justice for the Arkansas Supreme Court.

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