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### **Public Records Advocate Announces Resignation**

**Salem, OR (September 9, 2019)** – Today Ginger McCall, Oregon’s Public Records Advocate, announced her plans to resign. Ms. McCall was appointed by Governor Brown in 2018 after being selected as one of three applicants referred to the Governor by the Public Records Advisory Council.

As Oregon’s first Public Records Advocate, Ms. McCall was responsible for providing dispute resolution and assistance on public records requests, providing trainings to government employees and the public on public records law, and chairing the Public Records Advisory Council. During her one year and six months of service as Public Records Advocate, the Office of the Public Records Advocate provided training to more than 2,000 people across the state and answered more than 250 requests for assistance.

“It has been a pleasure serving the people of Oregon, training both members of government and the public, and hearing about people’s experiences with Oregon’s public records law,” Ms. McCall said. “I am very grateful to Governor Kate Brown, the Legislature, and the Public Records Advisory Council, for this experience.”

Under Ms. McCall’s leadership, the Public Records Advisory Council conducted Oregon’s very first statewide survey on public records. The survey revealed broad compliance, but a need for investment in a way for public bodies to track compliance with the public records law. The Council also oversaw the successful passage of HB 2430, which made the Council permanent by eliminating its original statutorily-prescribed sunset in 2021. The Council’s second piece of proposed legislation requiring state agencies to annually report certain public records figures and practices was passed by the Oregon House of Representatives, but failed to advance to a vote in the Senate after being referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

“I am proud of the work of the Council and glad that it will now be a permanent body. I hope that the Council will again choose to propose legislation that will require state agencies to report their public records performance,” Ms. McCall said. “It is also my hope that the Council will continue to discuss policy proposals regarding public records fees. Based on what I’ve heard from both government and the requester community, that is one of the most pressing issues in Oregon public records law.”

Upon Ms. McCall’s departure, Todd Albert, the Deputy Public Records Advocate, will be Acting Public Records Advocate until the Public Records Advisory Council can conduct interviews to select three new candidates to refer to the Governor, as required by Oregon law. “Todd has done an excellent job of responding to requests for assistance, providing trainings, and engaging with both members of the public and members of the government. He’s shown true leadership and

vision and has a firm grasp of Oregon's public records law. I am certain that in my absence he will be able to lead the office effectively," said Ms. McCall.

Ms. McCall's last day will be October 11, 2019. After that she will be returning to Washington, DC to take a job with the federal government. "This has been a unique and meaningful experience. I am grateful to all of the members of the public and the government who participated in our trainings and reached out to us to offer feedback. I have been pleased to see how engaged the public is here and even more pleased to see how hard Oregon's public employees are working to meet the requirements of the law," said Ms. McCall. "It has truly been an honor to serve the people of Oregon."