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Sens. Coons, Lankford announce Shannon Hamilton Kopplin as new Ethics Committee Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Kopplin previously served in the role in an acting capacity and brings extensive experience as Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy and Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Senators Chris Coons (D-Del.) and James Lankford (R-Okla.), the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Ethics, announced that Shannon Hamilton Kopplin has been named as the new Chief Counsel and Staff Director of the Senate Ethics Committee.

Kopplin has served as the Committee’s Acting Chief Counsel and Staff Director since October 2020. Over the past year, Kopplin has managed the Committee’s nonpartisan professional staff, advised Members of the Committee, conducted training for congressional employees on ethics rules, and provided guidance that allows Members, officers, and employees to have a clear understanding of the standards of conduct that govern their actions as public officials.

Before joining the Senate, Kopplin served as a career naval officer including as the Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Navy responsible for all civil law matters in the Department of the Navy and as Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations. At all levels of Navy leadership, Kopplin developed and maintained successful ethics programs, designed and delivered innovative ethics trainings, and mentored countless junior attorneys and paralegals in this practice area.

Kopplin replaces Deborah Sue Mayer, the Committee’s longtime Chief Counsel and Staff Director, who recently announced her retirement after 23 years of federal service.

“Shannon Kopplin is an experienced, talented, and principled attorney, and we are delighted to have her leadership, extensive skills, and knowledge at the Senate Ethics Committee,” **said Chairman Coons and Vice Chairman Lankford.** “Throughout her career in the Navy, and now the Senate, Shannon has demonstrated honor, integrity, and a commitment to justice and objectivity. We are confident her leadership will benefit the Committee and the Senate as a whole.”

The Select Committee on Ethics is unique among all Senate committees in that it is structurally bipartisan—there are a total of six Members, with three Members from the majority party and three Members from the minority party. The Committee staff is a nonpartisan professional staff hired jointly by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

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