



NEWS RELEASE

Arizona House of Representatives

Speaker of the House Rusty Bowers (R-25)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Speaker Bowers Announces Krystle Fernandez as the New Chief Clerk of the House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL, PHOENIX – House Speaker Rusty Bowers today announced that Krystle Fernandez will serve as the new Chief Clerk and Counsel for the Arizona House of Representatives when the 55th Legislature, 2nd Regular Session begins in January. She replaces Jim Drake, who has served as Chief Clerk for the House since 2015. Drake was recently appointed to the Maricopa County Superior Court by Governor Ducey. As required by House rule, the Chief Clerk will be formally elected by the members on Opening Day of the upcoming session.

“Krystle has provided wise and steady counsel as a House Rules Attorney,” said Speaker Bowers. **“As Chief Clerk, her legal and legislative acumen, paired with informed insight and judgement, will serve the House and public well.”**

House Democratic Leader Reginald Bolding praised the selection of Fernandez as the new Chief Clerk, **“I am very pleased that Ms. Fernandez has been chosen as the next Chief Clerk. Though she has big shoes to fill from former Chief Clerk Jim Drake, I am confident she will exceed expectations and excel in this new position. Serving as one of the Rules attorneys for the last several sessions, Ms. Fernandez earned the trust and respect of our caucus and I look forward to continuing working together in this new capacity.”**

Fernandez has served as a Rules Attorney for the House of Representatives since 2018, providing legal review and counsel for the Rules and Ethics Committees, and advising members and staff on House Rules, legal issues, and parliamentary procedure and practice, as well as many additional duties. She previously served as a Deputy County Attorney in Maricopa County.

“I am honored to be joining the incredible staff of the Chief Clerk’s Office,” said Fernandez. **“Serving the House as nonpartisan counsel in the Rules Office has been a highlight of my career and I look forward to being able to contribute to another integral part of the legislative process.”**

Chief Clerk is a nonpartisan, elected position overseeing all personnel and functions of the Chief Clerk’s Office. The office is responsible for bill introduction and tracking; preparation, organization and distribution of Committee of the Whole Calendars and Third Reading Calendars; messaging with the Senate, the Governor, and the Secretary of State; and the creation of the House Journal. Additionally, the Chief Clerk’s Office oversees and coordinates public records requests.

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