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**ATTORNEY CARA HENDRICKSON  
TO LEAD CHICAGO NONPROFIT BPI**

*Former Chief of Illinois Attorney General's Public Interest Division  
Becomes Next Leader of the 50-Year-Old Civil Rights Organization*

CHICAGO - The woman who led the development of a watershed agreement to reform the Chicago Police Department and who has led teams on sophisticated litigation matters will take the helm of BPI, one of the city's preeminent public interest organizations. BPI Board President Jonathan Kaden announced Wednesday that attorney Cara Hendrickson will become the fourth Executive Director in the organization's history.

The appointment also represents a homecoming for Hendrickson, who served separate stints on both the staff and the board of BPI earlier in her career.

Hendrickson succeeds E. Hoy McConnell, II, who is retiring as BPI's Executive Director at the end of February after 20 years' stewardship of the law and policy center. BPI, formed in 1969, is considered one of Chicago's most tenacious and versatile advocates for the public interest. Its work focuses on addressing poverty and racial inequity, increasing housing and educational opportunity, strengthening early childhood learning, reforming the criminal justice system, and improving governmental integrity and efficiency.

"It is a once in a lifetime opportunity to return to lead BPI at a time when public interest advocacy is arguably needed more than ever," Hendrickson said. "I am incredibly honored to be tasked with this role, and I am excited about the great potential that lies ahead for one of Chicago's most renowned social justice organizations."

An accomplished attorney, Hendrickson brings nearly two decades of experience in the nonprofit sector, private practice and government, where she served for more than five years as Chief of the Public Interest Division under former Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and current Attorney General Kwame Raoul. Hendrickson was the state's lead attorney in negotiating and securing court approval of the consent decree mandating sweeping reforms in the Chicago Police Department—a major milestone in efforts to address a legacy of racially discriminatory police practices, recurring use of excessive force, and an institutional culture that inhibits accountability. Hendrickson led the team that championed this charge

after the U.S. Department of Justice withdrew support for a federal consent decree that would have bound CPD to corrective actions.

This case is one of many from Hendrickson's career that illustrates the natural synergy between BPI's overarching goal of "a just society" and her strong commitment to racial equity, governmental integrity, and civil rights, according to Board President Jonathan Kaden.

"I am thrilled to welcome Cara Hendrickson back to BPI as our new Executive Director," Kaden said. "Her passion for social justice, keen intellect, and deep respect for BPI and the people we serve make her an ideal choice to lead us into our next 50 years. At this moment in the history of our city and region—when BPI's work on police accountability, criminal justice reform, housing and community development, residential mobility, and early childhood learning is as critical as ever—Cara is the inspiring and strategic leader that we envisioned."

In her role at the Attorney General's Office, Hendrickson supervised a staff of more than 60 attorneys and staff in seven bureaus: antitrust, civil rights, disability rights, public utilities, special litigation, tobacco enforcement, and workplace rights. All of these units investigate and litigate cases involving serious or persistent violations of state and federal laws. She is currently a partner at the law firm Massey & Gail, LLP, where she led complex litigation matters.

"While she will be missed at Massey & Gail, BPI's extraordinary mission will be served by Cara's uncommon skills and tenacity," said Leonard A. Gail. "As a long-time BPI supporter and champion, I know that Cara's leadership as Executive Director will benefit the public interest about which she and so many of us care greatly."

Hendrickson's hiring culminates an extensive national search overseen by a special committee of the BPI board and orchestrated by Koya Leadership Partners, an executive search firm specializing in mission-driven searches.

"We are grateful to all who applied in this extremely competitive search for Hoy's successor," Kaden said. "The strong interest in the position and impressive credentials of so many who were considered reaffirm that BPI remains a leading voice for the policies and reforms necessary to achieve a more just and equitable society in Chicago and the region."

Hendrickson takes over following BPI's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019, a year that saw the settlement of the *Gautreaux* case, an iconic civil rights lawsuit that banned racially discriminatory practices in Chicago public housing and changed the landscape of public housing nationally.

A former law clerk to retired Seventh U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Ann C. Williams, Hendrickson earned her bachelor's degree *cum laude* from Northwestern University and graduated *cum laude* from Harvard Law School. She is a past fellow of Leadership Greater Chicago, and a board member of Public Interest Law Initiative and the Chicago Chapter of the American Constitution Society, which honored her with its Ruth Goldman Award in 2018.

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About Business and Professional People for the Public Interest (BPI). For 50 years, BPI has served the Chicago region as an independent public interest law and policy center addressing compelling issues of social justice, racial equity, and quality of life. With its national recognition as a recipient of the MacArthur Award for Creative and Effective Institutions, BPI employs a mix of advocacy, organizing, litigation, legal and policy research, and collaboration with nonprofit, business, community, and governmental organizations to accomplish this mission.