



BOARD OF ETHICS
CITY OF CHICAGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The Board of Ethics is pleased and honored to announce that its Executive Director, Steve Berlin, was elected President of the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws (“COGEL”), at COGEL’s annual conference, which recently concluded in Philadelphia. He will serve as President-Elect for one year and assume COGEL’s Presidency at its Chicago conference in December 2019. Steve will also Chair the Conference’s Host Committee and continue to chair COGEL’s Publications Committee.

COGEL is an international organization of hundreds of ethics, lobbying, campaign financing, freedom of information, and election administration agencies and regulatory bodies at the federal, state, provincial, county, and municipal levels throughout the U.S., Canada, Ireland, and Australia. Its members also include academics, attorneys who practice in these areas, and watchdog organizations. (www.cogel.org)

Berlin began his tenure with the Board of Ethics in September 1993 as Deputy Director, and was named and confirmed as Executive Director in December 2008. He is a recognized expert in government ethics, campaign financing, and lobbying law, and has, in his City career, supervised dozens of Board of Ethics investigations and advised tens of thousands of City employees and officials, lobbyists, contractors and others on complying with Chicago’s ethics laws. He has led the Board’s staff through a period of regulatory, technological and legislative change and innovation, including an overhaul of the City’s ethics laws in 2012.

William Conlon, Chair of the Board of Ethics, said he “was delighted but not surprised by Steve’s selection as President-Elect of COGEL. Steve is a person dedicated to the service of the public; we are very fortunate to have him serving the citizens of Chicago.”

Berlin, 59, is a 1980 graduate of Amherst College, earned his law degree in 1984 from Northwestern University’s Pritzker School of Law, and received an M.A. in Ethics and Society from the University of Chicago’s Divinity School in 1991.

For more information, please call 312-744-9660.