For Immediate Release
May 30, 2019

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**Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle announces two key hires**

Oregon Labor Commissioner Val Hoyle announced Thursday that she has hired new Administrators for the Bureau of Labor and Industries’ Wage and Hour Division and its Civil Rights Division:

- **Sonia Ramirez will be hired as the Bureau’s new Wage and Hour Division Administrator.** Ramirez currently serves as the Government Affairs Director for the North America’s Building Trades Unions, a position she has held since 2013. Before that, she worked in government affairs for the AFL-CIO, including a stint as their chief immigration lobbyist. Ramirez has worked a total of 16 years for the national labor movement and for two members of Congress.

  A native Californian, Ramirez has been a resource to working families and to the Latino community, serving throughout her career as a community advocate, a political organizer, a civil servant and a government affairs representative. She is a graduate of Occidental College.

  The Bureau’s Wage and Division enforces Oregon’s laws on wages, benefits, and some working conditions. It also oversees prevailing wage determinations and enforcement, standards for farm, forest, construction, and property services contractors, and child labor certifications.

- **Carol Johnson will be the Bureau’s new Civil Rights Division Administrator.** In 2005, Johnson was appointed as the founding executive director of the Arkansas Fair Housing Commission, a quasi-judicial, regulatory, enforcement agency that investigates and resolves fair housing/fair lending complaints. It is the only civil rights agency in Arkansas. Johnson has served in that position under three governors and has also served on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights since 2014.

  Johnson is a licensed attorney with a passion for civil and human rights. Her career has spanned areas of administrative, civil and criminal law as a public defender, prosecutor, and as counsel for Arkansas’ Labor Commissioner with the state’s Workers’ Compensation Commission. Johnson holds degrees from Texas Christian University and University of Arkansas. She received her law degree from the University of Arkansas’ School of Law.

  The Bureau’s Civil Rights Division enforces Oregon’s civil rights protections for individuals in employment, housing, career schools, and public accommodations. It also protects individuals against retaliation for accessing their rights as injured workers or whistleblowers.
Ramirez and Johnson will fill two key open positions and complete Commissioner Hoyle’s executive team at the Bureau. Hoyle took office as Oregon’s 10th Labor Commissioner in January.

Hoyle said Thursday that she’s delighted that the national searches for the two positions produced such highly qualified candidates.

“These two dynamic and experienced leaders are perfect additions to the Bureau,” she said.

Both Ramirez and Johnson will start work at the Bureau in early July.