



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ben Tonner KC Appointed Chairman of the Human Rights Commission

Her Excellency, the Governor Jane Owen, is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Ben Tonner KC as Chairman of the Human Rights Commission (HRC). Mr. Tonner has served as Member of the HRC for over four (4) years spanning 2015 to 2018 and more recently from 1 September 2022 to 19 November 2023. Mr. Tonner's tenure as Chairman commenced on 20 November 2023.

Established under Section 116 of the Cayman Islands Constitution Order 2009, the Human Rights Commission is an independent body whose primary responsibility is to promote understanding and observance of human rights in the Cayman Islands.

The Commission is comprised of a Chairman and four Members, presently Deborah Barker Roye, Nick Quin, Cathy Gomez, and Jennifer Hunter. Mr. Tonner's appointment as Chairman succeeds Ms. Deborah Barker Roye's tenure as Interim Chairman from 17 September 2022 – 28 October 2023.

Her Excellency states: "I offer my sincere congratulations to Mr. Tonner as he assumes the important role of Chairman of the Human Rights Commission. The Commission plays a pivotal role in supporting democracy in our islands by promoting, protecting and preserving human rights. I commend Chairman Tonner and all Members for their commitment and dedication to the work of the Commission."

ENDS.

Notes for Editors:

Ben Tonner KC leads the Litigation practice at McGrath Tonner, Cayman Islands. Mr. Tonner has practiced litigation in the Cayman Islands for over 18 years and has extensive knowledge of both the criminal, civil and financial services divisions. Mr. Tonner regularly appears as leading counsel in the Grand Court and Court of Appeal of the Cayman Islands.

Mr. Tonner remains committed to accepting instructions in publicly funded (legally aided) work which he believes is an important means by which he can contribute to the local community and the Cayman Islands justice system.

For more information about the Human Rights Commission, visit
<https://www.humanrightscommission.ky/>