



KENTUCKY REGISTRY OF ELECTION FINANCE

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140 Walnut Street
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601-3240
Phone: (502) 573-2226
Fax: (502) 573-5622
www.kref.ky.gov

John R. Steffen
Executive Director
Leslie M. Saunders
General Counsel

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Contact: John R. Steffen
(502) 573-2226
John.Steffen@ky.gov

REGISTRY ELECTS NEW CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

FRANKFORT, KY – At its December 3, 2020 meeting, the Kentucky Registry of Election Finance unanimously elected Thomas P. O'Brien, III, a Louisville attorney, to serve as its new Chairman.

O'Brien, appointed by Governor Bevin as a Republican Party nominee in 2016, replaces Craig C. Dilger as Chairman. Dilger, also a Louisville attorney, served on the Registry's Board from June 1, 2005 until September 24, 2020. A total of 15 years of service. Dilger also served an unprecedented thirteen (13) consecutive one-year terms as chairman and two (2) consecutive one-year terms as Vice-Chairman of the Registry. His service as chairman continues to mark the longest continuous period of service as chairman in the Registry's history.

The new Registry's Chairman, Thomas P. O'Brien, III, is a member of the Intellectual Property and Business Litigation Practice with the law firm Frost Brown Todd, LLC. O'Brien represents corporations, large and small, and entrepreneurs in a variety of areas including patent, trademark and copyright infringement suits, trade secret actions, complex commercial litigation matters, unfair competition and franchise litigation. Mr. O'Brien also has substantial experience representing telecommunications sector entities in federal and state litigation as well as regulatory proceedings.

Mr. O'Brien is a fifth generation lawyer. He earned his B.A. magna cum laude from the Washington and Lee University in 1988 and a J.D. from the Washington and Lee University School of Law in 1991. Tom served as a Judicial Law Clerk to the Hon. Frederick P. Stamp, Jr., United States District Judge, N.D.W. Va., from 1991 – 1993.

Mr. O'Brien is active in the community. Among other civic and board service, Tom has chaired boards for the Louisville Zoo, Kentucky Opera and Bellarmine University. Tom is a graduate of Ignite Louisville, Leadership Louisville and Leadership Kentucky.

After the election of Chairman, the Registry Board unanimously elected Registry Member Adrian Mendiondo as Vice-Chairman. Mr. Mendiondo was recently appointed in September 2020 by Governor Andy Beshear as a Fair Elections Group Nominee.

1

Adrian Mendiondo grew up in Lexington, Kentucky and has practiced law in Lexington since 2005. After graduating from Henry Clay High School in 1996, Mr. Mendiondo pursued his undergraduate degree from Emory University, in Atlanta, Georgia, and then moved to Los Angeles California to attend Pepperdine University School of Law. Mr. Mendiondo graduated cum laude from Pepperdine in 2003, was admitted to the California bar, and practiced in Los Angeles from 2003 to 2004. He then returned to Lexington where he has practiced since being admitted to the Kentucky Bar in 2005.

Mr. Mendiondo began his Kentucky practice representing businesses and governmental agencies in employment and civil rights litigation across Kentucky. In 2015 Mr. Mendiondo joined Morgan & Morgan and switched the focus of his practice from defending business and government agencies to pursuing claims on behalf of those who've had their civil rights violated. Mr. Mendiondo leads Morgan & Morgan's national civil rights practice group, working with attorneys in the firm's nationwide offices to represent clients across the country.

In addressing the Board, Registry staff and those attending the meeting, O'Brien said, "It is an honor to lead this agency and help further its mission. The financing of political campaigns in the Commonwealth must be fair for the system to work. This nonpartisan agency is critical to maintaining that fairness and balance. The Board and I are driven to ensure the Registry has the tools it needs to audit and review the financing part of the political process and help stop abuse at any level."

The Registry is charged with administering Kentucky's campaign finance laws, including those relating to all candidates who are running for election. Kentucky law requires the disclosure by a candidate of contributions to and expenditures by the campaign.

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