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Staff Director & Chief Counsel Leo Wise to Depart OCE and Join US Attorney's Office in Maryland

(Oct. 15, 2010) -- Leo J. Wise, the Staff Director and Chief Counsel of the Office of Congressional Ethics (OCE) in the U.S. House of Representatives, today announced that he will be leaving the OCE in November to join the United States Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland.

"Leo has done an extraordinary job in 'standing up' and managing OCE operations during its first two years," said David Skaggs, former Colorado Congressman and Chairman of the OCE Board. "The Board is very grateful to him for his exemplary service to the House and to the country. He'll be missed."

"Leo assembled a highly-qualified team and led their work according to the highest professional standards," Porter Goss, former Florida Congressman and the OCE Board Co-Chair commented. "The Justice Department is fortunate to get him back."

"I'm proud of what we accomplished," Wise said. "It was an honor to help build the OCE and lead it through its first Congress."

Wise worked at the U.S. Department of Justice prior to joining the OCE, having joined the Department through the Attorney General's Honors Program after graduating from Harvard Law School. At the Justice Department he served as a counsel to the Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Criminal Division and was a member of the Enron Task Force that successfully prosecuted Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling and the Tobacco Litigation Team that successfully prosecuted the civil racketeering case against the cigarette industry. He left the Justice Department in November of 2008 to help organize and lead the OCE as its first Staff Director and Chief Counsel. Wise is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and a long-time Maryland resident.

The OCE Board will meet soon to name an Acting Staff Director and Chief Counsel, according to Skaggs. For more information, contact Jon Steinman at jon.steinman@mail.house.gov.