



## **COMMON GOOD APPOINTS JANET CORCORAN TO NEWLY CREATED POSITION OF PRESIDENT**

### **New Position Will Enable Common Good To Engage A Broader Public In Addressing The Impact Of Legal Fear On American Society**

New York, NY – July 10, 2006 – Common Good, the bipartisan legal reform coalition, announced today that Janet Corcoran has been appointed to the newly created position of President. Ms. Corcoran, a lawyer, was previously President of PENCIL, the non-profit organization dedicated to generating and coordinating support for the New York City public school system.

Ms. Corcoran has spent her career working in public policy, especially as it relates to financing and building community support for public infrastructure projects. Prior to joining PENCIL, she ran her own consulting firm dedicated to advancing public policy innovations through creative outreach and cross-sector collaborations.

“In just four years, Common Good has evolved into a national leader in legal reform, focusing attention on the impact that fear of litigation has on daily choices throughout American society,” said Philip K. Howard, Chair of Common Good. “Our challenge now is to engage a broader public behind a broad overhaul to restore reliability to the American legal system. Janet Corcoran has the perfect background to add this new dimension to our efforts, and we look forward to expanding our activities with her leadership.”

Common Good is currently proposing reforms to restore reliability to the legal system in such areas as healthcare, education, and civil justice. For example, a broad bipartisan coalition has come together behind the idea of creating special health courts, designed to be reliable for patients and doctors alike. A bipartisan bill to authorize pilot projects is currently pending in the U.S. Senate and was the focus of recent hearings held by the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions. The health court initiative has been endorsed by many of the most prominent leaders in healthcare and patient safety in the nation.

Common Good will be expanding its outreach to build broad public coalitions behind health courts and other innovative solutions to restore trust in America’s system of justice and other institutions. Janet Corcoran will provide this new dimension to Common Good’s activities. This will also enable Common Good’s Executive Director, Franklin Stone, to devote more time, as originally envisioned, to Common Good’s civil justice initiatives.

Earlier in her career, Janet Corcoran worked as Vice President of GE Capital Global Project Structured Finance, Senior Counsel and Vice President of the Financial Guaranty Insurance Company, and Deputy Chief of the Public Securities Law Division of the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey. She is a graduate of Radcliffe College and Boston College Law School and holds a Master's Degree from Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

*Common Good is a bipartisan legal reform coalition dedicated to restoring common sense to American law. Its advisory board is composed of leaders in a wide range of fields: former government officials, including Howard Baker, Bill Bradley, Griffin Bell, Newt Gingrich, Eric Holder, George McGovern, Diane Ravitch, Alan Simpson, and Richard Thornburgh; current and former university presidents, including Bill Brody, Tom Kean, George Rupp, and John Silber; and numerous other leaders in education, healthcare, law, business, and public policy. The Chair of Common Good is Philip K. Howard, a lawyer and author of The Death of Common Sense and The Collapse of the Common Good.*

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