



FLORIDA PAROLE COMMISSION

4070 Esplanade Way, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-2450

TENA M. PATE
Commissioner/Chair

BERNARD R. COHEN, SR.
Commissioner/Vice-Chair

MELINDA N. COONROD
Commissioner/Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 2, 2013

Contact:
Jane Tillman or
Brittany Roberson
(850) 921-2816

PRESS RELEASE

PAROLE COMMISSIONERS CONFIRMED BY FLORIDA SENATE

Tallahassee, Fla. – May 2, 2013 – Chair Tena M. Pate, Florida Parole Commission (Commission), announced today that Commissioner Bernard R. Cohen, Sr., Tallahassee, and Commissioner Melinda N. Coonrod, Tallahassee, were confirmed for their respective Commission terms by a unanimous vote of Florida Senators voting on Friday, April 26.

Vice-Chair Cohen was appointed to the Commission by Governor Rick Scott and members of the Florida Cabinet on January 18, 2012, to fill the remainder of the six-year term of former Commissioner Frederick B. Dunphy who resigned in January of 2012 and whose term expires June 30, 2014. Cohen was named Commission Vice-Chair at a Cabinet Meeting June 26, 2012.

Commissioner Cohen is the former Vice President of Corporate Administration for the Citizens Property Insurance Corporation, a position he held from February 2007 to April 2011. During his 30-year career with the Florida Department of Corrections, he held many executive and management level positions including Chief of the Bureaus of Staff Development and Program Services, Deputy Director of Programs, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Education and Training, Assistant to the Secretary, Deputy Circuit Administrator, and Inmate Classification Supervisor. Additionally, he served his country as a Captain in the United States Army Reserves.

Commissioner Coonrod was appointed to the Commission by Governor Rick Scott and members of the Florida Cabinet on June 26, 2012, for a six-year term which began July 1, 2012, and expires June 30, 2018. Prior to her appointment to the Commission, Coonrod served for three-and-a-half years as an Attorney and Administrative Hearing Officer for the Florida Department of Agriculture's Division of Licensing. Additionally, as an Adjunct Professor at Florida State University, she taught law to criminal justice students, and while employed as an Assistant State Attorney for the Second Judicial Circuit, she served as the lead prosecutor in over 57 jury trials, as well as 30 non-jury trials.

###