



STATE OF ILLINOIS

Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission

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Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission Names New Executive Director

CHICAGO - The Illinois Torture Inquiry and Relief Commission (TIRC) announced that it has appointed Barry Miller to serve as its new executive director starting on Jan. 2.

A 1978 graduate of Harvard Law School, Miller has served as University Attorney at Harvard for the past four years. He previously worked as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois from 2000 to 2009, as a partner in a Chicago law firm, and as an attorney at the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department.

"The Commission carried out a thorough search for a new Executive Director. We were very pleased to be able to offer the position to Barry Miller, who brings a wealth of unique experience as both a federal prosecutor and civil rights attorney," TIRC Chair Judge Cheryl Starks said. "We want to thank James Sledge for his service as Interim Director and his good work over the past several months."

TIRC is an independent Commission created by state statute in 2009. It is charged with fairly and impartially investigating certain claims by convicted felons who allege they were tortured by former Chicago Police Commander Jon Burge or his subordinates into making a false confession and then convicted of a crime. TIRC is authorized by state law to recommend a new round of judicial review if the Commission concludes there is sufficient evidence of torture leading to the conviction.

"I look forward to working with the members of the Commission to carry out TIRC's important mission. It is crucial that we always follow the law and be fair to everyone involved," Miller said.

Among the cases that Miller worked on as an Assistant U.S. Attorney were the Hired Truck investigation and the prosecution of Jon Burge on charges of perjury and obstruction of justice concerning the torture of persons in police custody.

For more information about the Commission, go to:
<http://www2.illinois.gov/itrc/Pages/default.aspx>

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