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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Jan. 22, 2017

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SEIU announces new General Counsel

Nicole Berner to assume responsibilities Feb. 1

WASHINGTON—SEIU International President Mary Kay Henry announced Monday that the Union’s current Deputy General Counsel Nicole G. Berner has been named General Counsel, effective Feb. 1. She succeeds current General Counsel Judy Scott, who is retiring from the Union after serving in that role since 1997.

“Nicole Berner has been a valuable advocate for the rights of working Americans throughout her decade-long tenure at SEIU,” said Henry. “She has a sharp legal mind, and is unfailingly dedicated to ensuring all working families have the opportunity to get ahead and join together in strong organizations to have a say at work and in their communities. Nicole is already been a valued leader in the legal department and there’s no one better to step into this role at such a crucial time for our nation.

“On behalf of SEIU’s two million members, I want to thank Judy Scott for her lifelong dedication to working people,” Henry continued. “She has been a trusted advisor and we are grateful to have had the opportunity to call her a colleague. I know Nicole will build, and expand, on the foundation she has laid down”

Since joining SEIU’s legal department in 2006, Berner has dealt with a broad range of legal matters, including healthcare, wages for fast-food workers, the right to vote and marriage equality. Prior to her work at SEIU, she served as litigation counsel for the Planned Parenthood Federation of America and an associate at Jenner & Block law firm. Berner holds both a Master’s Degree in Public Policy and a law degree from the University of California. She lives in Takoma Park, Md. with her wife and their three sons.

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The Service Employees International Union (SEIU) unites 2 million diverse members in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico. SEIU members working in the healthcare industry, in the public sector and in property services believe in the power of joining together on the job to win higher wages and benefits and to create better communities while fighting for a more just society and an economy that works for all of us, not just corporations and the wealthy.

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