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DOC Secretary Announces Leadership Appointments

MADISON—Wisconsin Department of Corrections (DOC) Secretary Gary Hamblin today announced the appointments of Charles E. Cole as Deputy Secretary and Dennis C. Schuh as Executive Assistant.

Charles Cole joined the DOC in March of 2007 as Director of the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA), overseeing the implementation a federally-mandated effort to prevent sexual assault in correctional institutions. This past year, he also served as the DOC chairperson of the Wisconsin DNA Task Force which worked diligently to review the statewide DNA collection process and found ways to improve it. Cole was the Assistant Chief of Police for the City of Madison, Wisconsin, serving that community for 35 years before retiring in 2007. Cole's background in law enforcement is extensive and includes commanding a multi-jurisdictional drug enforcement unit and Hostage Negotiations Unit. His many awards include the Madison Police Department Medal of Valor.

Dennis Schuh is new to DOC but a veteran in the field of criminal justice. His more than 25 years of experience include service as a Wisconsin Circuit Court judge, district attorney and public and private attorney. Since 2007, he has been the Director of Justice Programs at the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance. Before that, Schuh was both an Administrative Law Judge and Legal Counsel at the Wisconsin Department of Regulation and Licensing as well as Administrator of its Division of Enforcement. He served as Juneau County's Circuit Court Judge from 2003 to 2004 and as Juneau County's District Attorney from 1991 until 2003.

DOC Secretary Gary Hamblin says both Cole and Schuh bring seasoned experience and administrative skills to their new DOC positions. "I am very grateful that they are willing to take on these new roles and challenges and I look forward to working closely with them on our mission of public safety," said Secretary Hamblin.

As Deputy Secretary, Cole will oversee the day-to-day operations of the DOC, which is responsible for about 89,000 people in adult and juvenile correctional institutions or on probation, parole or community supervision. Executive Assistant Schuh will work closely with Secretary Hamblin and the Deputy Secretary on agency policy and initiatives.