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1889 INSTITUTE WELCOMES NEW LEGAL FELLOW

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (October 1, 2018) – The 1889 Institute, an Oklahoma state policy think tank, welcomes attorney Benjamin Lepak as the Institute’s new Legal Fellow. This is a new position at the Institute, one that is designed to move the policy conversation in the state increasingly toward fidelity to the rule of law.

Benjamin has practiced in both the public and private sectors in Oklahoma and Texas. He most recently served as the Chief of the Civil Division in an Oklahoma district attorney’s office, providing advice and counsel to 24 elected officials across three counties. He holds a B.B.A. in Finance from the University of Oklahoma and a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame where he served as an Articles Editor on the Notre Dame Law Review.

While there are no plans for the 1889 Institute’s Legal Fellow to litigate, the Institute’s principles of limited and responsible government, free enterprise, and civil discourse will inform Lepak’s research and legal writing. Lepak’s responsibilities include research into whether state and local policy practices are fully consistent with the state constitution and have a true basis in written law.

“Benjamin’s recognized expertise in the law surrounding local governments in Oklahoma and his broad experience analyzing and influencing issues at the intersection of law and public policy will make his work a force to be reckoned with in this state,” said Byron Schlomach, Director of the 1889 Institute.

“We are proud to have Benjamin join our team and look forward to seeing new life breathed into the notion that state laws are about facilitating all citizens’ freedom to pursue their interests rather than a privileged few,” said Senior Fellow, Vance Fried.

“This is a new challenge,” said Lepak. “I look forward to building a body of legal work in the state that will have a lasting impact and that will benefit Oklahomans, not just now but for decades to come,” he said.

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About the 1889 Institute

The 1889 Institute is an Oklahoma think tank committed to independent, principled state policy fostering limited and responsible government, free enterprise and a robust civil society. More information about the 1889 Institute and research can be found at www.1889institute.org.