FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Goetz Named Code Counsel for Legislative Research Council

PIERRE – Justin J. Goetz, Assistant General Counsel at South Dakota State University, is being offered the Code Counsel position for the Legislative Research Council in South Dakota. At its August 31, 2020, meeting, the Executive Board of the Legislative Research Council approved the action, choosing Goetz from among several candidates interviewed for the job.

Goetz would replace Wenzel Cummings, who resigned the position earlier this year. Cummings served as Code Counsel from June 2019 to June 2020.

Goetz is a 2007 graduate of South Dakota State University and a 2011 graduate of the University of Minnesota School of Law.

Rep. Jamie Smith, chair of the Search Committee convened to vet candidates for the position, says Goetz's experience and enthusiasm made him a clear choice.

"Justin not only has a good understanding of the legislative process but is also excited for the opportunity to put his legal expertise to work to enhance and improve the effectiveness of the system," Smith said.

The Code Counsel provides staff assistance and makes recommendations to the Code Commission regarding South Dakota laws and the Interim Rules Review Committee regarding administrative rules, advises and assists the Legislature in legal research and the preparation of bills, and prepares and indexes the session laws for each legislative session. Goetz's starting salary will be $100,000 per year.