

## TEXAS SUPREME COURT ADVISORY

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Secco



Newton

Monday, August 26, 2013

### **COURT'S RULES ATTORNEY, TO RETURN TO PRIVATE PRACTICE TO BE REPLACED BY MANDAMUS ATTORNEY**

Marisa Secco, who has shepherded court rules and the rules-making process for the Texas Supreme Court since June 2011, has announced that she's returning to Vinson and Elkins LLP's Austin office. She will be replaced by the Court's mandamus attorney, Martha Newton.

Newton joined the Court staff in May 2011.

"Marisa has managed one of the Court's key functions and one of its most difficult during a demanding time. Her skill in drafting rules and organizing them, her understanding of wide-ranging areas of law, and her good judgment in synthesizing comments from lawyers, judges, and the public have improved the functioning of the Texas civil justice system," said Justice Nathan L. Hecht, the Court's rules liaison. "Her extraordinary professionalism in this important position has earned the Court's trust."

Secco graduated from the University of Texas School of Law in 2007. Newton graduated from UT Law in 2004. Both served as law clerks for the Fifth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals: Secco for Judge Fortunado P. Benavides in Austin, Newton for Judge Edward C. Prado in San Antonio.

Both earned their undergraduate degrees at UT.

Secco's final day will be September 13.

The Court is seeking Newton's [replacement](#).