

STATE OF IOWA



CITIZENS' AIDE/OMBUDSMAN
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DES MOINES, IOWA 50319

MEDIA RELEASE

**State of Iowa
Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman**

April 18, 2011

**RE: Ruth Cooperrider Appointed as
State Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman**

For more information contact:
Ruth Cooperrider
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DES MOINES, Ia. – Iowa has a new Ombudsman for the first time since 1978.

Ruth Cooperrider also becomes Iowa's first female Ombudsman, after the Iowa House of Representatives voted last week to approve her appointment. The Iowa Senate approved the appointment in a vote on March 8.

Cooperrider succeeds Bill Angrick, who served as Ombudsman for 32 years before retiring in June 2010. Cooperrider worked under Angrick for 20 of those years, first as the office's Legal Counsel and then as Deputy Ombudsman. She was appointed as Acting Ombudsman upon Angrick's retirement last summer.



In January, the Service Committee of the Legislative Council recommended Cooperrider's appointment as Ombudsman to a four-year term starting on July 1, effective upon approval by both the Senate and House of Representatives.

Cooperrider becomes Iowa's fourth ombudsman, succeeding:

1. Lawrence Carstensen (October 1970 to July 1973)
2. Thomas Mayer (July 1973 to February 1977)
3. William P. Angrick II (April 1978 to June 2010)

Ruth Mosher served as Acting Ombudsman from February 1977 to April 1978.

Cooperrider is a 1981 graduate of the University Of Iowa College of Law. Prior to joining the Ombudsman's office, she worked as a law clerk in Iowa's Second Judicial District and also as an assistant county attorney in Wapello and Story counties.

Cooperrider has been a long-time member of the United States Ombudsman Association and served as its President from 2005 to 2007. She is also a member of the International Ombudsman Institute, the Iowa State Bar Association, the Polk County Bar Association, and the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys, serving the latter as President from

2001 to 2002.

The Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman is an independent, nonpartisan agency that assists citizens with questions or complaints about state and local governments. The Ombudsman may make recommendations related to policies, practices, and legislation.

Those who want information about the Iowa Citizens' Aide/Ombudsman or need help with complaints about Iowa's state or local governments can reach the office at 515-281-3592 in Des Moines, toll free at 1-888-IA-OMBUD, or e-mail at ombudsman@legis.state.ia.us. The office website is www.legis.iowa.gov/ombudsman