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National Organization for Victim Assistance

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NATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR VICTIM ASSISTANCE ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF CLAIRE PONDER SELIB AS NOVA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Alexandria, VA. The National Organization for Victim Assistance (NOVA) Board of Directors is pleased to announce its decision to appoint Claire Ponder Selib as its Executive Director overseeing all operations of the non-profit victim assistance organization. Founded in 1975, NOVA is the oldest national victim assistance organization of its type in the United States and is the recognized leader in victim advocacy, education and credentialing. Since its inception, NOVA has played a prominent role in the development and recognition of crime victims' rights and services.

"The Board of Directors is delighted that Ms. Selib will be serving as NOVA's chief executive officer effective immediately," said NOVA's Board President, Andrew Yurick. "She has been a driving force behind much of NOVA's recent innovative programming, developed under her role as Deputy Director, and now we look forward to her experienced leadership as Executive Director."

Selib has a long history in the field of victim assistance beginning her career in a hospital-based sexual assault services program and was a guiding force in supporting victims of sexual assault in the military prior to the Congressional mandate requiring training and certification for military sexual assault advocates. She was first hired by NOVA to serve as Project Manager for the Department of Defense Sexual Assault Advocate Certification Program (D- SAACP) initiated by NOVA in cooperation with the DoD Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office in 2012.

Yurick spoke highly of Selib's leadership when he added, "Claire Selib has long been an innovative leader in the victim services field, bringing a victim-centered and trauma-informed foundation to so many of the programs she has initiated during her tenure with NOVA. She is responsible for the NOVA Victim Assistance Academy and took that one step further with the development of the National Advocacy Leadership Center (NALC), both of which prepare and continue to educate crime victim service professionals across the country and around the world."

Selib had been appointed to serve as Interim Executive Director when NOVA's previous Executive Director, Retired Chief Justice Richard Barajas officially retired in September 2019. "Claire took on the interim assignment and the Board of Directors knew almost immediately she was destined to serve as Executive Director. It was as if she had been NOVA's ED for years and she is the perfect choice to lead this organization forward."