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**INSURANCE COMMISSIONER JIM BECK DENIES CHARGES
RETAINS COUNSEL**

ATLANTA, GA (May 14, 2019) - Insurance Commissioner Jim Beck has retained William ("Bill") Thomas of W.H. Thomas Firm, LLC and Douglas Chalmers, Jr. to represent him in connection with the federal indictment handed down today.

Mr. Thomas, who will serve as lead counsel, is a former federal prosecutor and an expert in defending individuals and businesses in complex criminal, civil and administrative investigations. Prior to going into private practice, he served for 12 years as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Georgia.

Mr. Chalmers is the Managing Member of Chalmers & Adams LLC. He represents public officials in government investigations and political law matters.

Mr. Thomas also released the following statement today: "Jim strongly denies these charges, and we intend to mount a vigorous defense. Jim is justifiably proud of the work that he did at the Georgia Underwriting Association ("GUA"). Any accusation that he defrauded GUA is false," Thomas said. "He acted legally and in good faith. Under his leadership, for the first time in its history GUA made millions of dollars of profits. Jim looks forward to clearing his good name."

Mr. Thomas added that, "We are also pleased to note that these allegations do not relate to Jim's performance as the Commissioner of Insurance where, among other things, he has led the fight against insurance fraud and for transparency. The allegations relate solely to his prior work experience at a private, non-governmental association for insurance companies. Jim looks forward to continuing his work as Insurance Commissioner protecting Georgia consumers."

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