



For Immediate Release  
March 6, 2023  
Contact: JD Chesloff  
617-921-6284

## **MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS ROUNDTABLE WELCOMES TONJA METTLACH AS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

The Massachusetts Business Roundtable—a public policy organization comprised of CEOs and Senior Executives from large employers across the Commonwealth—today announced workforce policy leader Tonja Mettlach will serve as its new Executive Vice President. Tonja will fill the role previously held by Lauren Jones who was appointed in January by Governor Healey to serve as the state’s Secretary of Labor and Workforce Development.

For the past five years, Tonja has served as the Executive Director of the Massachusetts Workforce Association (MWA) where she ran a membership organization that advocated for a state-of-the-art workforce system that is regionally-led and employer-driven, and for public policies and resources to meet the workforce needs of local businesses and connect job seekers to employment and career pathways. In this role, she was a key collaborator to the Roundtable on workforce issues through the Roundtable’s involvement in the Workforce Solutions Group and convening of the annual Jobs & Workforce Summit. Her career also includes experience in the non-profit sector and state government, where she served as Chief of Staff and Legal Counsel on two legislative committees including the Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Development.

“Finding and keeping talent continues to be the top issue facing employers,” said Jane Steinmetz, EY Boston Office Managing Principal and Chair of the Roundtable. “Tonja’s knowledge of the workforce development system, employer needs and connecting the two will be an enormous asset to the Roundtable’s members as well as policymakers grappling with these issues at the state level. Tonja is a highly respected expert and leader, and we are excited to welcome her to the Roundtable team.”

As Executive Vice President, Tonja's expertise in workforce issues and state public policy will focus on implementation of the Roundtable's "Talent Agenda to Drive Massachusetts' Competitiveness," a framework to drive the state's economic competitiveness by attracting, retaining, developing, and diversifying talent that reflects the top priority expressed by Roundtable members. She will also be responsible for developing and advancing all Roundtable public policy strategies and initiatives, managing all internal and external communications, and undertaking organizational management responsibilities including serving as a liaison to external stakeholders, day-to-day operations, and member recruitment and engagement.

"I can't think of a better, more qualified person to lead the Roundtable's workforce and talent agenda than Tonja," said JD Chesloff, President & CEO of the Roundtable. "At the Roundtable, we are laser focused on the state's competitiveness and believe that competitiveness is fundamentally about people. Tonja understands this, is a leader in this space, and has built a career around meeting the talent needs of employers. In addition, her broad public policy and legislative experience, combined with having run a membership organization, will add a fresh perspective and professionalism to the Roundtable that will serve us well. We are thrilled to have her on board."

#### *About The Massachusetts Business Roundtable*

*The Massachusetts Business Roundtable's mission is to make Massachusetts the most desirable place to live, work and do business by engaging private sector executives and public leaders to ensure access to a robust, diverse and talented workforce that enhances the Commonwealth's competitiveness in a global economy. For the latest updates and news on the Roundtable, follow on Twitter @MABizRoundtable.*