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Western Sierra gets new legal counsel



Andrew Harris is the new chief legal and administrative executive at Western Sierra Medical Clinic in Grass Valley.

Western Sierra Medical Clinic in Grass Valley has hired attorney Andrew A. Harris as chief legal and administrative executive.

Harris is expected to play a critical role in the fast-growing health center's business development, expansion, compliance and human resource efforts, according to Western Sierra Medical Clinic CEO Scott McFarland.

“Our aggressive expansion plans, coupled with the ever-increasing complexity of health care demand that the clinic has in-house counsel,” McFarland said. “Andy has the legal experience and the firsthand knowledge of the clinic to help us reach our goals.”

Harris has been practicing law since 2001, including serving as Western Sierra's outside counsel for the past four years.

He has extensive experience in business development, contracts, corporate compliance, mergers and acquisitions and litigation.

Western Sierra has recently added several services — including an on-site pharmacy and expanding Urgent Care — and opened a 19,000-square-foot health center in Grass Valley in December 2014.

Western Sierra will open a health center this spring in Penn Valley.

Numerous other projects are planned during the next few years, McFarland said.

“I’ve enjoyed a close working relationship with the clinic’s management team during the past four years, and I’m looking forward to being part of the team every day,” said Harris, who will close his private practice during the next few months. “I’m excited about this opportunity to help the clinic improve the health of the community and its residents.”

Harris — a former professional musician, teacher, counselor, business owner and paralegal — attended night school at Lincoln Law School in Sacramento and earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 2001. He was the valedictorian of his class at law school.

He practiced law as an associate attorney with and of counsel to Aronowitz & Skidmore Inc. in Auburn and the Law Offices of P. Scott Browne in Grass Valley before opening his own practice in 2012.

Harris serves as board member of the Grass Valley Chamber of Commerce.

He and his wife, Michelle, have two grown children and live in Grass Valley.