



NEWS

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JULIA JOHNSON, FORMER FLORIDA PSC CHAIR, TO HEAD FCC FEDERAL DIVERSITY ADVISORY PANEL

WASHINGTON - FCC Chairman Michael Powell today announced the selection of former Florida Public Services Commission Chairman Julia Johnson to chair the FCC's new Federal Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age.

Chairman Powell announced the formation of the Committee earlier this summer. The Committee's inaugural meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 29, 2003, at the Commission headquarters in Washington D.C.

Powell said, "I am delighted that Julia Johnson has agreed to lead this effort. With her wealth of experience in public service and the communications industry, she brings the ideal mix of knowledge, determination, and proven leadership to the task of developing proposals for enhancing representation of women and minorities in the communications industries."

The mission of the Federal Advisory Committee on Diversity in the Digital Age is to provide guidance to the Commission on policies and practices that could increase the diversity of ownership and could create opportunities for minorities and women to advance to managerial positions in the communications sector as well as other related sectors of the economy. Specifically, the Committee will make reports and recommendations concerning the need for any guidelines, incentives, regulations or other policy approaches to promote diversity of participation in the communications sector. The Committee will also develop a description of best practices within the communications sector for promoting diversity of participation.

Ms. Johnson is the President of NETCOMMUNICATIONS, a public policy consulting firm. She also serves as a member of the Florida State Board of Education and as a trustee of the University of Florida. From 1992-1999, Ms. Johnson served on the Florida Public Services Commission, which she chaired from 1997-1999. In that capacity, she was responsible for regulating Florida's \$16.8 billion investor-owned utility industry, which includes telecommunications, electric, gas, water, and waste-water utilities. She also oversaw the PSC's \$24 million budget and 400 employees.

Among her many honors for her government, business, and community leadership, Ms Johnson was inducted into the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council Hall of Fame, and received the Alliance for Public Technology Susan Hadden Award, and the National Bar Association Presidential Achievement Award. Ms. Johnson is a graduate of the Warrington

School of Business at the University of Florida (B.A.) and the University of Florida College of Law (J.D.).

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