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COMMISSIONER COPPS ANNOUNCES STAFF APPOINTMENT

Commissioner Michael J. Copps announced today that FCC veteran Rick Chessen would be joining his staff as Senior Legal Adviser effective April 5. Chessen is presently serving as Associate Chief of the Media Bureau.

"I am enormously pleased that Rick is joining my team," Copps said. "He knows how this place works, he understands media as few people anywhere do, and he possesses the intellect and good judgment to help guide us through an array of proceedings that will have a lot to do with how well our country meets and masters the challenges of the digital age."

In addition to his senior legal adviser responsibilities, Chessen will be the staff lead in handling media issues, although Copps emphasizes that in such an important area as media, each member of his team is involved in an "all-hands on-deck" approach.

Chessen, who holds a BA from the University of Wisconsin and a JD from Harvard Law School, first joined the FCC in 1994. Among the positions he has held, Chessen served as Senior Legal Adviser to Commissioner Gloria Tristani from 1997 until March 2000. From 2001 until 2005, he chaired the Commission's Digital Television Task Force which focused on the myriad regulatory and technical issues relating to the DTV transition. His important DTV work was recognized in 2006 when the Academy of Digital Television Pioneers presented him its President's Award. In his current capacity as Associate Bureau Chief, Chessen has been responsible for overseeing the Video Services and Engineering Divisions and managing numerous media-related proceedings.

The remainder of Copps' team remains the same, with Bruce Gottlieb serving as Wireless and International Legal Adviser; Scott Deutchman as Competition and Universal Service Legal Adviser; Carolyn Conyers as Confidential Assistant; and Renee Coles as Staff Assistant.