



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 7, 2009

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT
Rick Kaplan, (202) 418-1728
rick.kaplan@fcc.gov

FCC COMMISSIONER CLYBURN ANNOUNCES STAFF

Washington, DC – Federal Communications Commission Commissioner Mignon L. Clyburn today announced that Michele Ellison will lead the Commissioner’s transition efforts and that Renée Roland Crittendon has been named Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor. Commissioner Clyburn also announced the appointment of Rick Kaplan as acting Legal Advisor and Chief of External Affairs, Carol Simpson as acting Legal Advisor and Almira Kennedy as interim Confidential Assistant. Crystal Rice will join the office as interim Staff Assistant.

“I am excited about the talented team we’ve assembled to begin my tenure at the Commission,” said Clyburn. “In putting together my staff, I have drawn from a wide range of backgrounds and experiences to assist me in meeting the great challenges ahead. My staff and I look forward to working with my colleagues and their staffs, as well as the American people, to develop and sustain communications policies that put consumers first and set the stage for a truly competitive and innovative marketplace.”

Michele Ellison will lead the transition effort for Commissioner Clyburn. Ms. Ellison joined the Commission in 1995 and has served as Deputy General Counsel for twelve years and more recently as Acting General Counsel. In addition to her duties in the General Counsel’s office, Ms. Ellison has provided leadership in many areas, including co-chairing the Commission’s Localism Task Force and serving as senior advisor to former Chairman Kennard on a variety of substantive and agency-wide operational matters. Before joining the Commission, she was a partner with the law firm of Williams and Connolly.

Ms. Ellison began her career as a law clerk for the Honorable Damon J. Keith in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in Detroit, Michigan and for the Honorable Paul R. Webber III in the Superior Court for the District of Columbia. She received a B.A. in Political Science from Duke University and a J.D. cum laude from Howard University School of Law.

Renée Roland Crittendon will serve as Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor. In addition to her duties as chief of staff and senior legal advisor, Ms. Crittendon will focus on spectrum, international and public safety matters. Ms. Crittendon has been at the FCC for eight years. She was recently named by Chairman Genachowski as a Deputy Chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Prior to that appointment, she served as Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor in the Office of Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein where she was responsible for spectrum, broadband, international and public safety issues.

Before joining the Commissioner's office in 2007, Ms. Crittendon served as Deputy Bureau Chief in the Wireline Competition Bureau. Prior to that, she was Chief of the Wireline Bureau's Competition Policy Division. Ms. Crittendon also served as Associate Division Chief of the Mobility Division of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau. Before joining the Commission, Ms. Crittendon served as Deputy Chief Counsel – Telecommunications for Prism Communication Services, Inc, and was in private practice for several years with a Washington, D.C. law firm specializing in media, wireline and satellite issues. Ms. Crittendon received her law degree from the George Washington University National Law Center and received her undergraduate degree in Economics from Georgetown University where she is a George F. Baker Scholar alumnus and Trustee.

Rick Kaplan will serve as acting Legal Advisor and Chief of External Affairs. As part of his role as legal advisor, Mr. Kaplan will be responsible for media and consumer issues. Mr. Kaplan most recently served as the deputy coordinator of the DTV task force at the FCC. Previously, Mr. Kaplan worked in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. House of Representatives, where he counseled Members of Congress on a broad range of legal issues and litigated on behalf of the House. Before working on Capitol Hill, Mr. Kaplan was an associate at Sidley Austin LLP with a focus on appellate litigation and regulatory affairs.

Mr. Kaplan began his legal career as a law clerk for Judge Harry T. Edwards of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. He received his B.A. from Wesleyan University and his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a Kent Scholar and Editor-in-Chief of the *Columbia Law Review*.

Carol Simpson will serve as acting Legal Advisor for wireline and broadband matters. Ms. Simpson has been at the Commission since 2004. She spent two years in the Wireline Competition Bureau before moving to the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, where she most recently served as Acting Associate Bureau Chief. Prior to joining the Commission, Ms. Simpson practiced telecommunications law at Hogan & Hartson. Ms. Simpson received her B.A. from the University of Virginia and her J.D. from the University of Texas, where she was Editor-in-Chief of the *Texas Law Review*.

Almira Kennedy will act as interim Confidential Assistant to Commissioner Clyburn. Ms. Kennedy will be responsible for managing the office as well as the Commissioner's personal schedule and travel arrangements.

Ms. Kennedy has served in the Office of General Counsel as a Special Assistant since 2002. A North Carolina native, Almira graduated from Livingstone College, in Salisbury, N.C. with a B.S. in Business Education. She began her career as a teacher in the D.C. Public School System before working in the private sector and for the federal government, including eight years at the Department of Energy.

--FCC--