



NEWS

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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 27, 2009

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COMMISSIONER COPPS ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGE

Commissioner Michael J. Copps announced today that Rick Chessen, his Senior Legal Advisor and advisor on media issues, will be leaving the Federal Communications Commission to serve as Senior Vice President, Law & Regulatory Policy, for the National Cable & Telecommunications Association.

Commissioner Copps stated:

“I congratulate Rick Chessen on his appointment to an important private sector position. Its gain is our loss. Rick has a most distinguished record of public service, capped by a stellar performance as Acting Chief of Staff of the FCC from January-June of this year. (I think perhaps he did too good a job and thereby attracted covetous looks from many outside government!) Rick not only took upon himself all the arduous tasks associated with being Chief of Staff, but devoted the second 24 hours of each uniquely Chessen day to shepherding the Digital Television Transition to the smoothest landing it could have made under the circumstances we inherited. Nobody in the public or private sectors knew so much about DTV as Rick and his knowledge saved the country a lot of heartache – it also saved the industry and the government from what otherwise would have been an enormous consumer backlash.

“Rick’s clear-sighted intellect and deep commitment to the public interest made his one of the most productive careers ever at the FCC. That’s saying a lot – but it’s saying it right. I believe he will take both these assets with him to his new assignment and thereby pave the way for better understanding and cooperation between the sectors. I am confident he will keep his eye focused on good policy outcomes wherever he is. Everyone in the Copps Office joins in wishing Rick and his wonderful family all good things on the road ahead.”

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