



# 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).

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**September 18, 2009**

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**COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL  
ANNOUNCES STAFF CHANGE**

Christine Kurth will join the Office of Commissioner McDowell as Policy Director and Wireline Counsel. She was most recently Republican Staff Director and General Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and joined the Committee in 2005 as Deputy Staff Director. For the last six years of her Capitol Hill career, she has led or been intimately involved in drafting and negotiating legislation to keep up with the ever-changing communications landscape. Laws enacted during her tenure included Internet Tax moratorium, broadband mapping, public safety interoperability, online safety, spectrum relocation, and the digital television transition.

Regarding the hiring of Ms. Kurth, Commissioner McDowell said, "I am extremely lucky to have Christine join the team in our office. She brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise. She will be an invaluable asset as we tackle a plethora of complex wireline issues in the coming months, not the least of which is the National Broadband Plan."

Prior to joining the Commerce Committee, Ms. Kurth served as Deputy General Counsel for the Senate Committee on Appropriations from 2003 to 2005. She has also served as Counsel to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and as Professional Staff Member to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Before her nine years of service on Capitol Hill, Ms. Kurth litigated contempt cases in federal court on behalf of the National Labor Relations Board. She began her legal career as a law clerk to Chief Judge James K. Singleton in the U.S. District Court in Alaska. Ms. Kurth received a Bachelor of Arts degree, *magna cum laude*, in political science and a Juris Doctor degree, *cum laude*, from Valparaiso University.

Nick Alexander, who has served as Commissioner McDowell's Legal Advisor for wireline issues since July 2008, will be joining the leadership team of the Wireline Competition Bureau. Commissioner McDowell expressed deep appreciation for Nick's service: "I am immensely fortunate to have been the beneficiary of Nick's insight and excellent legal skills. More importantly, American consumers have been well served by his diligence and commitment. I am glad that the Commission will continue to benefit from his service."

As background, Commissioner McDowell's office is led by his Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor, Angela Giancarlo who handles wireless and international issues, among many other matters. Additionally, Rosemary Harold serves as his Legal Advisor for media issues, Brigid Calamis serves as Deputy Chief of Staff and Rafael Fernandez as Staff Assistant.