

Media Contact:

Will Wiquist, (202) 418-0509
will.wiquist@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release

CHAIRMAN PAI ANNOUNCES FCC GENERAL COUNSEL

Top Agency Counsel Advises Chairman, Commissioners, and Staff on Legal Matters

WASHINGTON, October 19, 2017—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai today announced the appointment of Thomas M. Johnson, Jr. as FCC General Counsel. When Mr. Johnson joins the Commission next week, Acting General Counsel Nick Degani will transition back to his role as senior counsel in the Office of Chairman Pai.

“Because we cannot stray beyond the authority granted to us by Congress, the General Counsel is one of the most important positions at the FCC,” said Chairman Pai. “Having myself worked in the FCC’s Office of General Counsel, I know the hard work that goes on there. I am grateful that someone with Tom’s skill and experience is going to fill this vital role. Tom is an outstanding attorney and a strong leader.”

Mr. Johnson will join the Commission from his position as deputy solicitor general for West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey. Mr. Johnson has also worked at the law firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP and as a law clerk for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. He earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School and a bachelor’s degree from Georgetown University.

Chairman Pai also thanked Mr. Degani for his work: “Nick once again stepped up when needed and did an outstanding job filling a temporary but fundamental need for the Commission. I welcome him back to my office and thank him for his tireless work.”

The Office of General Counsel serves as the chief legal advisor to the Commission and its various bureaus and offices. The Office of General Counsel also represents the Commission in litigation, recommends decisions in adjudicatory matters before the Commission, assists the Commission in its decision-making capacity, and performs a variety of legal functions regarding internal and other administrative matters.

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Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500

ASL Videophone: (844) 432-2275

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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. Cir. 1974).