



## **Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz Panelist at CCIF and NASUCA Conferences in Orlando**

On November 16, 2013, Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz was a panelist at the Critical Consumer Issues Forum (CCIF) in Orlando, Florida. Consumer Counsel Katz participated in the panel entitled “DG Lessons Learned & Future Approaches.” This panel explored the benefits of distributed generation (DG) and how the electric grid enables DG options. The panel further discussed lessons learned from current DG public policy initiatives and regulatory actions as well as potential future approaches to provide a balanced path forward. The panel was moderated by David K. Owens, EEI Executive Vice President of Business Operations. Other panelists included Honorable Ellen Nowak, Commissioner at the Wisconsin Public Service Commission; David Ozment, Senior Director of Energy at Walmart; and Christopher P. Johns, President of Pacific Gas and Electric Company. The CCIF is an organization of state commissioners, consumer advocates, and electric utilities that seeks to facilitate collaboration among these groups and highlight areas of agreement in a way that enhances each group’s individual efforts to address important consumer-focused issues. Consumer Counsel Katz was recently named to CCIF’s Advisory Committee.

In addition, on November 18, Consumer Counsel Katz participated in a panel entitled “State Legislative Developments” at the 2013 National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA) Annual Meeting. This panel provided an overview of the national trends and reasons behind state legislative initiatives, and potential impacts on consumers. Issues addressed included whether there is a trend toward increasing legislative and political activity in utility matters that have historically been addressed through the regulatory process and whether legislatures are adequately equipped to prescribe the details of how utility practice should be handled through statute. Joining Consumer Counsel Katz on the panel were moderator Robb Mork, Indiana Utility Consumer Counselor; and panelists Kevin D. Gunn, Shareholder at



Polsinelli, LLP from St. Louis, Missouri; and Bruce Biewald, Chief Executive Officer at Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

At the NASUCA Conference, Consumer Counsel Katz was also active in her role as a member of the NASUCA Executive Committee.