



## **Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz Appointed to the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service**

On July 9, 2011, Connecticut's Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz was appointed to serve on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service. The Joint Board is comprised of FCC Commissioners, State Utility Commissioners and one consumer advocate, now our Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz. The Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service works under the auspices of the Federal Communication Commission (FCC) and is charged with making recommendations for use of the federal Universal Service Fund (USF). The USF is funded by a charge on telephone companies that is typically passed on to the end-use consumer. The USF is used to provide access to quality and reasonably priced telephone service, and now broadband internet service, to unserved or underserved areas or constituencies, including schools, classrooms, libraries, low income areas, and rural healthcare providers. As part of the Joint Board, Consumer Counsel Katz's goal will be to ensure that consumers in all regions of our nation have access to telecommunications and broadband internet services, and pay rates for those services that are fair and reasonable. We applaud the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the FCC for the work they are doing on all of the public's behalf.