



**OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL HOSTED DYNAMIC & INNOVATIVE
BROADBAND CONFERENCE:
A CONVERSATION ABOUT HIGH-SPEED INTERNET
FOR MUNICIPALITIES AND PUBLIC OFFICIALS**



*Executive Director of Gig.U Blair Levin and Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz
at the Office of Consumer Counsel's Broadband Conference on April 11, 2014*

On April 11, 2014, at the State Legislative Office Building, Connecticut Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz and State Broadband Coordinator Bill Vallée of the Office of Consumer Counsel hosted a conference about the opportunities and challenges for municipalities seeking to bring “gig” service to their communities. The well-attended conference fostered a nationally trailblazing exchange between panels of key state and local leaders as well as representatives from the state’s Internet service provider companies regarding the possibilities for high-speed internet deployment in Connecticut. Given that many municipalities in Connecticut are currently considering their options for facilitating ultra-high-speed internet service, the time was ripe for a conversation among the stakeholders. The conference can be viewed [here](#).



A highlight of the conference was the keynote address by broadband visionary [Blair Levin](#), architect of the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) National Broadband Plan, Chief of Staff to FCC Chairman Reed Hundt, and Executive Director of Gig.U, a collaborative of 40 research universities, including the University of Connecticut, across the country attempting to expand access to gigabit service into the communities surrounding their campuses.

Panelists and moderators at the conference also included state Sen. Beth Bye; state Rep. Lonnie Reed; Connecticut Comptroller Kevin Lembo; Commissioner Catherine Smith of the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development; New Haven Mayor Toni Harp; and University of Connecticut Provost Mun Choi.

The Office of Consumer Counsel welcomes continuing dialogue on the subject and plans to make this an annual event. Interested parties may contact State Broadband Coordinator Bill Vallée at William.Vallee@ct.gov.