



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

Consumer Counsel Elin Swanson Katz

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ELIN SWANSON KATZ CONFIRMED AS CONSUMER COUNSEL

(February 24, 2012 -New Britain, CT) - During Thursday's legislative session, the House of Representatives voted to confirm Elin Swanson Katz as the State's Consumer Counsel.

Katz was appointed as Consumer Counsel by Governor Malloy on October 3, 2011. A confirmation hearing with the Executive and Legislative Nominations Committee took place on February 14th, where Katz answered questions related to the overall role of the Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) and the investigation into the two major storms in 2011. With last night's House vote, Katz formally begins a five-year term.

The Office of Consumer Counsel is an independent state agency established by law in 1975 to advocate for all utility ratepayers in Connecticut. The 13-member team that makes up OCC works for fair and reasonable rates and reliable service for customers of our state's electric, gas, water, and telephone utilities, and reasonable protection for cable television customers.

Katz is an attorney who came to Connecticut in 1996 after practicing environmental law at law firms in Washington, D.C., and Boston. She spent five years in the Commissioner's Office as Assistant Counsel at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, and then practiced environmental law and litigation at the law firm of Day, Berry & Howard in Hartford (now Day Pitney). She has also taught at Trinity College, Tunxis Community College in Farmington, and Manchester Community College in Manchester. In addition, she currently sits on the Board of Education in West Hartford, Connecticut, and serves as the Board's Vice-Chairperson.

"It is an honor and a privilege to serve as an advocate for the people of Connecticut," Katz said. "Recent events have reminded us yet again just how essential our utility services are to the health and well-being of our citizens and our economy."

Katz is a graduate of Cornell University, Boston University School of Law, and Trinity College. She lives in West Hartford with her husband Steve Katz, an attorney, and their two teenage sons.

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The Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) is the State of Connecticut's advocate for all utility ratepayers. OCC seeks to ensure just and reasonable rates and reliable utility service for customers of Connecticut's electric, gas, telephone, and water utilities and reasonable protection for cable television customers. For more information, visit www.ct.gov/occ.