

**Office of Consumer Counsel Welcomes New Attorney**

 Julie Datres is a Staff Attorney in the Office of Consumer Counsel where she represents the state’s ratepayers in administrative and judicial proceedings regarding electric, natural gas, water, and telecommunications services. Her practice focuses on consumer protection litigation and associated appeals.

 Prior to arriving at OCC, Julie worked at the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office for close to eight years. In her most recent role as Assistant Attorney General, her practice included administrative agency appeals and civil litigation defense of state agencies and employees. Before that, Julie was part of the MA AGO’s Abandoned Housing Initiative, a program established to combat housing blight resulting primarily from the foreclosure crisis. Her first position at the MA AGO was with HomeCorps, another initiative related to the foreclosure crisis. In that role, Julie mediated foreclosure alternatives for homeowners and tracked mortgage-servicer compliance with the National Mortgage Settlement.

 Before becoming an attorney, Julie worked in the field of international education for a not-for-profit organization in southern Vermont. During her tenure there, she held three positions with duties that included teaching English to non-native speakers, serving as lead supplier to a major energy corporation for the design and oversight of language and intercultural programs in English, Portuguese, Russian, and Arabic, and administering college study abroad programs.

 Julie holds a J.D. with a public interest concentration from Western New England University School of Law, an M.A. in Germanic Languages and Literature from the University of Massachusetts, and a B.A in Political Science and German from Duquesne University.

 In her personal time, Julie is an active volunteer with Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Dakin Humane Society. She enjoys running, yoga, hiking, acting, and cooking.

Please visit [OCC’s website](http://www.ct.gov/occ/site/default.asp).