

State Elections Enforcement Commission

Press Release



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STATE ELECTIONS ENFORCEMENT COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HARTFORD, CT—February 3, 2012. The State Elections Enforcement Commission is pleased to announce that Michael J. Brandi will become the Commission's next Executive Director and General Counsel. Mr. Brandi has accepted the position and it is anticipated that he will be appointed officially at a special meeting to be held on February 3, 2012. Mr. Brandi will become the Commission's sixth Executive Director and General Counsel, following the departure of Albert P. Lenge, who retired in September 2011.

Mr. Brandi is a practicing attorney from Hamden, who for the past seven years has worked at the firm of Cohen and Acampora in East Haven, specializing in municipal, administrative and business law. From 2001 to 2004, he served as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Town of Hamden, where he administered operations for the town of 57,000. Prior to that he worked at the firm of Updike, Kelly & Spellacy, P.C. as a member of the firm's Litigation, Corporate and Real Estate Practice Groups.

Mr. Brandi is an experienced administrator and attorney, practicing law in Connecticut since his graduation from the University of Connecticut Law School in 1996. Mr. Brandi graduated from the College of the Holy Cross in 1993.

Commissioner Stephen F. Cashman said, "After an exhaustive nationwide search for candidates to fill the position of Executive Director and General Counsel we were fortunate to have found a pool of highly qualified candidates from which to choose. Michael Brandi is an exceptionally talented and dynamic person and a respected attorney. In light of the challenges we face in the area of public campaign financing and agency consolidation issues, it is essential to have someone with his experience and energy to lead the Commission through this difficult time." The appointment of Mr. Brandi concludes a rigorous six-month search to fill the vacant position, and happens at a time when the agency is ramping up for a busy election year. Commissioner Cashman added, "We have complete confidence that he can hit the ground running."

Mr. Brandi takes the position at the beginning of an election year for the Connecticut General Assembly, the third such election where public financing from the Citizens' Election Fund will be available. The Elections Commission is responsible for ensuring independent, non-partisan enforcement of all election law in Connecticut as well as providing campaign finance advice and serving as the repository for all state-wide campaign finance reports and committee registrations. Since 2005, the Commission also has been home to the Citizens' Election Program, a groundbreaking effort to publically finance Connecticut campaigns and restore trust in the electoral process.

Mr. Brandi will begin February 10, 2012.

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