



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**OFFICE OF CONSUMER COUNSEL ATTORNEY
APPOINTED TO STATE BROADBAND COUNCIL**

(July 11, 2008-New Britain) - William L. Vallée, Jr., Principal Attorney for Connecticut's Office of Consumer Counsel (OCC) has recently been appointed to the newly formed state Broadband Internet Coordinating Council.

The Council was created as a result of 2008 legislation (Conn. Gen. Stat. § 4d-100) and will include representation from both the private and public sectors. The group will consist of ten members, all appointed by legislative leaders.

Mr. Vallée has been appointed by House Majority Leader Christopher Donovan.

The Broadband Internet Coordinating Council will meet at least quarterly and will be responsible for "monitoring trends and developments in the state's efforts to develop a state-wide world-class communications infrastructure" and to "issue any reports it deems necessary to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to technology."

About William L. Vallée, Jr.

Bill joined the OCC in 1993 as an attorney and as the agency's Legislative Liaison in which role he participated in the legislative initiative that resulted in P.A. 94-83 which moved telecommunications toward a more competitive environment. He is a voting member of the North American Numbering Council (NANC), a federal advisory committee to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), where he represents the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates (NASUCA).

A graduate of Union College in Schenectady, N.Y. and Fordham University School of Law in New York, N.Y., Mr. Vallée is now Principal Attorney and continues to be the agency's Legislative Liaison, active in the public utilities industry. He very much looks forward to filling his new role on the Broadband Council.

“I’m not only honored to have been selected by House Majority Leader Donovan to provide consumers with a voice on the Broadband Counsel, but I also believe that this issue presents one of the most important challenges facing individual and business consumers in this state in terms of jobs and financial investment. As we’ve witnessed the digital divide steadily growing across the United States, I commend Representative Donovan and the members of the General Assembly for their support of this crucial initiative” Vallée said.

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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.