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Maryland PSC Announces New Chief Law Judge and Other Key Roles

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(BALTIMORE, MD) – The Maryland Public Service Commission announces the appointment of **Kristin Case Lawrence** as Chief Public Utility Law Judge. She has served as a Public Utility Law Judge since 2018 and will assume her new post on July 1, 2025. Judge Lawrence began her career with the Commission in 2012 as an Assistant General Counsel. For six years prior, she was an assistant Attorney General representing the Maryland Highway Administration. A resident of Baltimore County, she holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the Commonwealth Law School in Pennsylvania.

The Public Utility Law Judge (PULJ) Division is a separate organizational unit reporting directly to the Commission and includes the Chief Judge and three Public Utility Law Judges. The Commission delegates dozens of proceedings to the Division every year related to applications for construction of power plants and high-voltage transmission lines; rates and service quality for gas, electric, water and telephone utilities; bus, taxi and rideshare proceedings; and consumer complaints.

"We congratulate Judge Lawrence as she assumes leadership of this division that shares so much of the Commission's workload - hearing and deciding cases that are at the core of our mission and playing a critical role in implementing key energy policies," said Frederick H. Hoover, Chair of the Commission. "Her experience, dedication and competency have been instrumental in ensuring safe, reliable, and economic public utility and transportation service to the citizens of Maryland."

Judge Lawrence will replace **Ryan C. (Chuck) McLean** who was appointed as a Commissioner in March by Governor Wes Moore and confirmed by the Maryland Senate during this past legislative session; his term as Commissioner will begin on July 1, 2025. Chief Judge McLean has led the PULJ Division for nearly seven years. He joined the PSC in 2008 as an assistant staff counsel. A former assistant county attorney in Carroll County, Judge McLean is also a veteran of the U.S. Air Force, having served as a captain in the Judge Advocate General Corps. A graduate of Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College), he received a law degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law. He lives in Baltimore County.

"We are excited to welcome Chief Judge McLean to the bench and have no doubt that in his new role as a Commissioner, he will continue to bring the knowledge, commitment and expertise that have made him an invaluable part of our team," said Chair Hoover.

Chief Judge McLean will join **Chair Hoover** and Commissioners **Kumar Barve**, **Bonnie Suchman** and **Odogwu Obi Linton** to complete the five-member panel of Commissioners.

"We also want to express our sincere gratitude to **Commissioner Michael Richard**, who has served with distinction since 2016 and who will leave the bench at the end of June," said Chair Hoover. "Over the course of our careers, he and I have had the honor of both serving as director of the Maryland Energy Administration and now as colleagues at the Commission. I am particularly grateful for his expertise, leadership and advocacy on behalf of Maryland ratepayers in matters related to the PJM grid and federal energy policy. We sincerely thank him for his remarkable service to the Commission and the people of Maryland."

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About the Public Service Commission:

The Maryland Public Service Commission regulates electric and gas utilities and suppliers, telephone companies (land lines), private water and sewer companies, passenger motor vehicle carriers for hire, taxicab companies in some jurisdictions and bay pilot rates. The Commission implements the energy policy of the State and also regulates the siting of energy generating facilities and high-voltage transmission lines.

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