



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 16, 2008

Contact: Crystal Davis Hutchins
Communications Director
(614) 752-8172

OUTSTANDING LEGAL LEADER WILL DIRECT THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Columbus -- The Industrial Commission of Ohio (IC) today announced that Christa Deegan will come onboard as Executive Director. Ms. Deegan has over 20 years experience in legal leadership, with extensive experience in ethics, EEOC and civil rights cases, workers' compensation and unemployment compensation issues. Her first day on the job will be Monday, July 21.

Ms. Deegan comes to the IC from the law firm of Kravitz, Brown and Dortch in Columbus, where she serves as trial and appellate counsel for federal and state criminal defendants. She's worked as an Assistant US Attorney for the US Justice Department in Alabama and Ohio, an Assistant County Prosecutor for Cuyahoga County, and for the US Homeland Security Department's Transportation Security Administration (TSA). As Supervisory General Counsel at the TSA, she managed subordinate attorneys, paralegals and clerical staff. During the course of her career, she's received numerous law enforcement commendations and awards of extraordinary performance. She graduated from the Ohio State University and Capital University's School of Law.

Current Executive Director Patrick Gannon will be assuming new responsibilities within the agency. He'll be supporting policy initiatives and overseeing special projects assigned by or identified by Administration. A former Chairman of the Industrial Commission, Gannon has been with the agency for 14 years.

The IC conducts hearings on disputed workers' compensation claims, determines violations of specific safety requirements, and determines if an injured worker is permanently and temporarily disabled due to a work-related injury or occupational disease. Three Governor-appointed bi-partisan Commissioners lead the agency; each serves a six-year term.

The Commission--headquartered in Columbus--has 5 regional and 11 district offices throughout the state. The IC heard more than 172,000 claims in calendar year 2007 for employers and injured workers.

#