

From: "Leopold, Matt (OGC)"

Date: September 20, 2018 at 12:27:37 PM EDT

To: OGC ALL USERS; OGC RCs and DRCs

Subject: OGC Front Office Leadership Announcement

OGC,

It has been just over eight months since I began my service as EPA General Counsel. Over that time, I've been overwhelmed by the hard work and talent in our office. I consider working with you all every day a high honor that few attorneys in our field ever experience. Kevin Minoli has done an extraordinary job managing this office and serving for a year as Acting General Counsel. As he is moving on to exciting new challenges, we look to the future to continue to build upon the leadership traditions at OGC. Each new change creates opportunities for individuals to step into new roles and help lead through that change, and I am pleased to share with you the Front Office team that will be in place starting this October.

I have asked David Fotouhi to serve as our Principal Deputy General Counsel, adding the "first assistant" duties to his existing portfolio. As you know, David has been a Deputy General Counsel for a year and a half. In this new role, he will continue to oversee issues managed by the Water Law Office and Solid Waste and Emergency Response Law Office and also take on new supervisory roles related to all the Deputy General Counsels and political staff. While new within OGC, having a political appointee serve as the Principal Deputy is consistent with the structure used at times by the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Water, as well as the Department of Justice, Department of Interior, Department of Commerce, and Department of Agriculture. David is a lawyer of the highest caliber, and I have full faith and confidence that he will help guide OGC with his trademark excellence.

Next, I'd like to explain the new structure for the career senior management. The Front Office will now have two career Deputy General Counsel positions. Seeing the long hours Kevin spent tending to OGC business, I sensed a need for an additional career senior manager. I'm convinced two Deputies will better serve the needs of our office and help the continuity of OGC operations in times of political transition. One career Deputy General Counsel will function as a chief operating officer for OGC and perform many of the same duties that Kevin performed in his prior role. I am very pleased Elise Packard has agreed to serve in this position on an acting basis, continuing her excellent work assisting the Front Office.

Earlier this month Acting Administrator Wheeler announced changes to EPA's regional offices, including the Offices of Regional Counsel. This proposed reorganization is expected to usher in changes for OGC to more fully realize the vision of One National Law Office. Building upon that vision, I am creating a second career Deputy General Counsel position that will coordinate with and manage the Regional Counsels, among other duties. I am happy that Dave Cozad, Region 7 Regional Counsel, has agreed to serve in this position on an acting basis.

Deputy General Counsel Justin Schwab will continue to oversee issues managed by the Air and Radiation Law Office, the Cross Cutting Issues Law Office, and the Pesticides and Toxics Substance Law Office. I thank him for the many hours he devotes providing stellar leadership on some of our most challenging work. Joe Brazauskas, our newest Associate Deputy General Counsel, will continue in his role covering congressional oversight, Inspector General and

Government Accountability Office engagements, and FOIA matters for OGC, and he will assist with External Civil Rights.

Additionally, as Kevin announced earlier this year, Associate Deputy General Counsel Rich Albores will step down from this management position and join SWERLO as an attorney-advisor. Rob Stachowiak, who most recently served as an Acting Assistant General Counsel in SWERLO, has accepted a detail to act in the Associate Deputy General Counsel position for six months. Rich and Rob will work closely together to ensure a smooth transition. Join me in thanking Rich for his efforts in managing the front office operations, covering the internal communications and external engagements, and serving as Regional Liaison over the last two years.

Derek Mills is returning to ARLO with my sincere thanks for an excellent job helping me personally on many engagements. Mahri Monson, who has earned my gratitude for a job well done, is completing her time as the Operational Special Assistant, and we are excited to be welcoming Tia Miller as our newest Operational Special Assistant for the next six months. And Lauren Maher will continue her great work helping the Front Office with special projects.

Finally, amidst the change, the foundation of the Front Office remains the Executive Assistant Team. We are thankful to continue to have Carla Veney and Monique Patrick in their roles and appreciate the job Pat Shaffer has done and will continue to do in her detail to OGC.

I am excited about our new management team and look forward to continuing to work with OGC to provide the highest level of legal counsel that our clients know and expect from us.

Matthew Z. Leopold

General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency