

NEWS RELEASE

Angelina Estrada-Burney, 907-269-8492
For Immediate Release: December 17, 2007

Mark Davis Appointed Director of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

(Anchorage.) Commerce, Community and Economic Development Commissioner Emil Notti announced today that Mark Davis, the current Division Director for Banking and Securities, will move to the position of Director of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. This position has been vacant since Rick Urion resigned in October of 2007. Jenny Strickler, the Chief of Professional Licensing, has been serving as the Acting Director since that resignation. Commissioner Notti is appointing Katrina Mitchell as acting Director of Banking and Securities.

Commissioner Notti stated that this appointment will coincide with a reorganization of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. Mark Davis will be asked to set up a new component in the Division called the Offices of Consumer Affairs and Investigations. This new office will regulate consumer lending, such as payday lending and mortgages, will respond to consumer complaints regarding many regulated businesses, and provide investigative assistance to licensing boards and commissions.

This reorganization responds to a request by Governor Palin's Administration that the Department of Commerce look at ways to enhance consumer protection and effective use of departmental investigative resources while maintaining a regulatory environment which fosters business and economic development.

Commissioner Notti emphasized his Department's commitment to achieve effective regulatory oversight: "The Department of Commerce plays an important role in business regulation and Mark Davis offers invaluable expertise and understanding of the business community." The Commissioner also believes that Davis's legal experience will significantly contribute to the department's ongoing effort to streamline statutes and regulations regulating corporations and professions.

Mark Davis was appointed Director of the Division of Banking and Securities in 2003. Davis has worked for the last 30 years in the public and private sectors of the legal profession in both Alaska and Washington D.C.

Davis has a long, accomplished resume. A few notables include serving as a member of the U.S. Attorney's Office (North Slope Borough and Exxon Valdez Investigations), litigation counsel in Amerada Hess, the State's oil royalty case, Partner with Davis & Davis, P.C.; and Trial Attorney, U.S. Department of Justice, Antitrust Division. He received his undergraduate degree from Stanford University later receiving his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School with Graduate work from Oxford University.