

OCC Directors



Janine L.
Migden-Ostrander



Bruce J. Weston



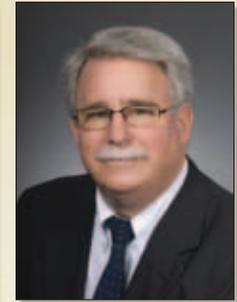
Aster Rutibabalira
Adams



Beth Gianforcaro



Amy Gomberg



Charles Repuzynsky

Consumers' Counsel

Ohio Consumers' Counsel Janine L. Migden-Ostrander oversees the state agency that represents the interests of Ohio's 4.5 million residential households in matters concerning their investor-owned electric, natural gas, telephone and water utilities.

Ms. Migden-Ostrander was sworn into office April 5, 2004, by then Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro. Prior to her appointment by the Ohio Consumers' Counsel Governing Board, Ms. Migden-Ostrander was a partner in the law firm of Hahn Loeser & Parks and served as co-chair of the firm's Utility and Regulatory Practice Group.

In her role as consumers' counsel, Ms. Migden-Ostrander has championed a variety of energy, telecommunications and water policies. They include integrated portfolio management, alternative energy, energy efficiency programs, innovative rate designs in the energy industry, delivery of broadband services and other technologies to rural and urban customers. Ms. Migden-Ostrander also has made it an agency priority to find solutions for the increasing number of customers who struggle to keep pace with rising utility prices. She is intent on addressing ways to improve traditional avenues of advocacy, outreach and education programming. She also works to increase the effectiveness of the regulatory process to ensure fairness for customers.

With more than 30 years of experience, Ms. Migden-Ostrander is well-known within the utility and environmental industries as a strong customer advocate. She began her career in public utilities at the Office of the Ohio Consumers' Counsel (OCC), where she served as an administrative assistant before earning a law degree from Capital University Law School. She then was promoted to assistant consumers' counsel and litigated a variety of cases involving state-regulated electric, natural gas, telephone and water utilities.

Ms. Migden-Ostrander's previous experience also includes serving as senior director of government affairs for Enron Corp. and as special prosecutor for Montgomery County. She has been involved in proceedings before numerous state utility commissions, and has monitored activities and worked on policy issues involving state and federal energy and telecommunications matters. In addition, she has worked on legislation in numerous states involving a variety of issues, including electric and natural gas competition.

Ms. Migden-Ostrander has earned recognition through numerous awards, including the Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award presented by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and the 2007 Public Servant Award from the Ohio Environmental Council.

Ms. Migden-Ostrander is in the Leadership Group of the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency, on the National Coal Council, a federal advisory committee to the U.S. Secretary of Energy, a member of the executive committee and past secretary of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates and on the board of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance. She is a past board member of Green Energy Ohio, Ohio Partners for Affordable Energy, the Ohio Environmental Council and the National Low Income Energy Consortium. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree from the State University of New York and earned a Certificat de la Langue et Civilisation Francaise from the Universite de la Sorbonne in Paris, France.

Deputy Consumers' Counsel

Deputy Consumers' Counsel Bruce J. Weston is the director of the Legal Department and contributes to the formulation of policy for the OCC and its Governing Board. In addition, he fulfills Janine Migden-Ostrander's role as consumers' counsel in her absence.

The staff of the Legal Department works with others in the agency to represent the interests of residential customers in utility proceedings before the courts and regulatory commissions at both the state and federal levels. The legal staff has extensive experience in negotiation and litigation of utility proceedings. Their responsibilities also include review of proposed changes to state laws and administrative rules.

Mr. Weston brings more than 25 years of experience in public utilities law to the OCC. He is committed to protecting the interests of Ohio residential utility customers. His priorities for the OCC include advocating for reasonable rates, competitive choices, advanced technologies and maintaining good service quality for residential utility customers throughout Ohio.

Prior to joining the OCC for a second time in October 2004, Mr. Weston was in private law practice. He served as legal counsel for clients in cases involving utility rates, service quality, industry restructuring and competition.

Mr. Weston began his career at the OCC in 1978 as a law clerk. After earning his Juris Doctor degree from The Ohio State University College of Law in 1980, he began a 12-year tenure as counsel for the agency. Mr. Weston is the current chairperson of the Public Utilities Law Committee of the Ohio State Bar Association.

Analytical Services

Aster Rutibabalira Adams joined the OCC in November 2005 as director of the Analytical Services Department. He is responsible for overseeing the review of the accounting, economic and financial analyses associated with utility rate filings and other regulatory proceedings. He provides advice and recommendations concerning technical and policy issues related to utility regulation and legislation.

Before joining the OCC, Dr. Adams was chief of the Economic Analysis Division/Competitive Markets and Policy Division of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority. He was responsible for investigating and making recommendations about cost, pricing, rate design and allegations of anticompetitive practices. He also identified and analyzed market trends, including monitoring and evaluating the impact of agency decisions on market outcomes in the electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water and wastewater industries.

Prior to moving to the United States from Rwanda in 1990, he was an assistant professor at the National University of Rwanda where he taught econometrics, macroeconomics, microeconomics, statistics, monetary theory and industrial organization theory. He holds a bachelor's degree and a licentiate degree in economics from the National University of Rwanda. He earned a master's degree in economic development and a doctorate in economics from Vanderbilt University. His dissertation was titled "The Impact of Deregulation on Cost Efficiency, Financial Performance, and Shareholder Wealth of Electric Utilities in the United States." In it, he argued any evaluation of the effectiveness of deregulation of electric utilities in the United States must consider the selection bias implicitly embedded in the data and the input and output price differentials evident across utilities.

Communications

Beth Gianforaro joined the OCC as director of Communications in October 2007. She held a similar communications position at the OCC from 1986 – 1992. She manages a staff of communications experts in the planning and implementation of public and media relations activities, outreach and education efforts, the development of printed materials and the OCC website.

Ms. Gianforaro has more than two decades of experience managing award-winning communications programs for several State of Ohio government agencies, including the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, the Ohio Rehabilitation Services Commission and the Office of the State Treasurer.

She is active in professional communications organizations, including the Central Ohio Chapter of the International Association of Business Communicators, and serves on the board of directors for the Central Ohio Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists. She holds bachelor's degrees in English-journalism and speech communications from Miami University, Oxford, and is completing a Master of Science degree in journalism from Ohio University's E.W. Scripps School of Journalism.

Government Affairs

Amy Gomberg joined the OCC as director of Government Affairs in October 2009. She serves as liaison between the OCC and the Ohio General Assembly and the United States Congress. She represents the agency in all legislative hearings and communicates OCC policies and positions on utility issues and pending legislation.

Prior to joining the agency Ms. Gomberg was program director and acting state director for Environment Ohio, which she helped launch in 2006. At Environment Ohio, she worked to advance environmental and energy programs and policies throughout the state. Prior to her work with Environment Ohio, Ms. Gomberg was the environmental associate with the Ohio Public Interest Research Group and the Columbus citizen outreach director for the Fund for the Public Interest. Ms. Gomberg also has worked for several other non-profit organizations including Green Corps, the New Voters Project and Corporate Accountability International. Ms. Gomberg received a Bachelor of Arts in earth and environmental sciences from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn.

Operations

Charles Repuzynsky joined the OCC as director of Operations in July 2005. He oversees the Operations Department, which encompasses the Administration and Consumer Services divisions. His area of responsibilities includes finance, budgeting, strategic planning, human resources, information technology and consumer services.

Prior to joining the OCC, Mr. Repuzynsky served as the chief financial officer for the Ohio Historical Society, a non-profit quasi-government organization. He also is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants, the American Payroll Association, the Association of Government Accountants and the Society for Human Resource Management. He holds a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in accounting from The Ohio State University.