

OCC Directors



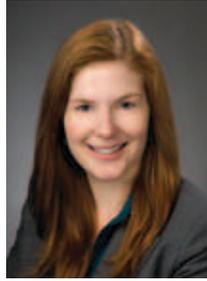
Bruce J. Weston



Aster Rutibabalira
Adams



Beth Gianforcaro



Amy Kurt



Charles Repuzynsky

Interim Consumers' Counsel

Bruce J. Weston was named Interim Consumers' Counsel by the OCC Governing Board, effective in October 2011. He has been the agency's Deputy since October 2004. Mr. Weston, with OCC's staff, serves Ohio's residential utility consumers as their statutorily designated advocate in matters involving their services from investor-owned electric, natural gas, telephone, and water utilities.

Mr. Weston also is the director of the Legal Department. The legal staff--working with others in the agency--advocates on behalf of Ohio residential customers in complex cases before the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio and in state and local courts involving public utilities.

Mr. Weston brings more than 30 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 good service quality for residential utility customers throughout Ohio.

Prior to appointment as Deputy Consumers' Counsel, 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 received his bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Cincinnati. He began his career at the OCC in 1978 as a legal intern. After earning his law 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 chair 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 Gianforcaro 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 award-winning communications experts in the planning and implementation of public and media relations activities, outreach and education efforts, the development of printed and online materials and the OCC website.

Ms. Gianforcaro has more than two decades of experience managing high-performing, accomplished 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 Kurt 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 Mrs. Kurt 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. Mrs. Kurt has worked in development and policy positions for several other non-profit organizations in Ohio and around the country. Mrs. Kurt 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 responsibilities including finance, budgeting, strategic planning, human resources and information technology.

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 Ohio Government Finance Officers Association 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.



**Janine L.
Migden-Ostrander**

Janine Migden-Ostrander (Consumers' Counsel, April 2004-October 2011)

Janine L. Migden-Ostrander represented Ohioans as their Consumers' Counsel from Apr. 5, 2004, when she was sworn into office by former Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro, until her departure on Oct. 15, 2011.

During her tenure, Ms. Migden-Ostrander helped save consumers more than \$8 billion in unnecessary utility bills, either through OCC's direct efforts or through collaboration with other advocacy organizations.

As Consumers' Counsel, Ms. Migden-Ostrander advocated for consumers in numerous energy, telecommunications and water matters and made it an agency priority to help find solutions for consumers having difficulty paying utility bills in a difficult economic environment.

Ms. Migden-Ostrander negotiated for key provisions in Ohio's Energy Law, Senate Bill 221 (127th General Assembly), to protect Ohioans from higher electric prices and develop more efficient uses of energy technology. She also reached out to community organizations and other advocacy groups and developed the Low Income Dialogue Group to advocate on behalf of seniors and at-risk populations, for solutions such as utility-funded fuel assistance programs and Percentage of Income Payment Plan (PIPP) reform.

For her contributions as Consumers' Counsel, Ms. Migden-Ostrander earned recognition, such as the 2010 Inspiring Efficiency Leadership Award presented by the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance and the 2007 Public Servant Award from the Ohio Environmental Council.