

**Comments by Commissioner Gary Pierce on the
occasion of the Swearing in Ceremony of new
Commissioners Stump, Newman, Kennedy-Jan. 5, 2009**

It is a pleasure to be able to speak at the close of this ceremony honoring three individuals who have weathered the storm of an exhausting statewide campaign.

I welcome Commissioners Kennedy, Newman and Stump to the Arizona Corporation Commission.

I also welcome to your new policy advisors and administrative assistants. Their responsibility to assist you cannot be overstated. I have two outstanding statesmen in John LeSueur and Antonio Gill.

All of you are now a part of a unique organization which works best when working towards the objectives outlined by the state constitution and codified in statute.

I would like to add my appreciation to this audience for attending today and making this event memorable and special.

We are honored to have Secretary of State and soon to be Governor, Jan Brewer who will be taking the reins of state government in three or four short weeks. Hers is a daunting task to manage, and perhaps overhaul the fiscal affairs of this state. I for one pledge to support her and will take the necessary steps at the ACC to fulfill the duties of this office with the resources available.

Thank you for coming Secretary Brewer and we wish you great success and a bright future as our Governor.

Here at the ACC we work with the Attorney General's office on securities violations and prosecutions; and with his appointee, the Chairman of our Arizona Power Plant and Transmission Line Siting Committee. It is a relationship which is necessary and must work well in Arizona.

Attorney General Terry Goddard is with us and we are honored to have you here today.

Chief Justice McGregor and Justice Hurwitz from the Arizona Supreme Court it is always good to see you. Give my well wishes to the others.

You five combined have made our Supreme Court a model of how a court ought to be constitutionally administered.

Those of us who serve in elected office have a special kinsman-ship with others who have stepped up and put their name on the line. All other current and former elected officials here today, we honor you as well and would you please stand up and be recognized. Thank you.

For those on our staff here at the ACC, thank you for your commitment, your expertise, and your loyalty. We need you now more than ever

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Today is special for Arizona in one very particular way. Today we are changing the face of the ACC like never before.

Three new commissioners! The majority here are just minutes on the job. That could really be scary for some. But, it is something that was contemplated by the citizens of this state when they voted to have five commissioners instead of three.

All three of our new commissioners are former legislators, Commissioner Newman just finished a term on the Cochise County Board of Supervisors and Commissioner Stump just completed six years at the Arizona House of Representatives.

Commissioner Kennedy served 14 years in the House and Senate, combined.

So, they bring a wealth of knowledge and background to the job.

The voters of Arizona have done their part and fully expect the five of us to do ours.

We five have the great opportunity to lead an organization of professionals who on a daily basis serve and protect citizens in this state.

Whether it is rail and pipeline safety, securities investigations, corporate filings, insuring safe and abundant water supplies, troubling over utility rate cases which are complex and demanding, or balancing the interests in a line siting case, our staff is unmatched anywhere. And, I do mean anywhere!

We are soon to lose Brian McNeil, our Director, to Governor Brewer's administrative team and we wish him well. He is perhaps the best administrator in state government and it is no surprise that Mrs. Brewer has asked him to join her. One the most important things we do as Commissioners will be to find a suitable replacement for Brian.

So it's time to get started. We have cases to hear and next week will be the first test. I remember my first meeting and I was excitedly uncomfortable.

But, you get used to it. Just read and ask questions.

May we serve well together, may we strive to get along, and may we treat each other as we would treat friends and family.

Again, thank you all for joining us here today.