

## SELECTION OF DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL PUBLIC DEFENDER DIVISION

I am very happy to inform you that the Committee for Public Counsel Services has selected Ben Keehn to be the next Deputy Chief Counsel of the Public Defender Division. Ben will begin in his new role on Monday, August 1, 2011.

Ben graduated from Columbia University in 1979, and from Northeastern University Law School in 1983. While in law school, Ben was a student intern for the Southern Prisoners' Defense Committee in New Orleans, working with death-sentenced defendants in post-conviction matters.

Ben began his career at CPCS as a staff attorney in 1987, doing stints in both the Roxbury Defenders Unit and the Boston Trial office. In due course, Ben moved from trial work to the Appeals Unit, where, for 16 years, he focused his considerable intellectual and analytical talents on appellate litigation. He worked initially as a staff appellate attorney, and later as the agency's first Appellate Co-Counsel to the Trial Unit. Ben had a tremendous record of success as an appellate litigator, and he provided exceptional legal services to hundreds of clients as well as invaluable assistance and support to scores of trial attorneys around the state. Ben played a particularly critical role during the counsel crisis of 2004, leading the CPCS legal team in its challenge to a system that was resulting in the denial of counsel to hundreds of indigent persons. The Supreme Judicial Court's favorable decision in that case, *Lavallee v. Justices in the Hampden Superior Court*, 442 Mass. 228 (2004), was largely the result of Ben's brilliance and incredible hard work.

As most of you know, Ben currently serves as the Public Defender Division's Assistant Deputy Chief Counsel, a position he has held since 2006. In that role, Ben was instrumental in helping to establish the District Court offices that are now such a vital part of the fabric of CPCS. Ben has been a valued member of the CPCS Senior Management Team for the past five years, and he is justifiably regarded as an experienced and highly skilled public defender leader. His deep commitment to the staff of the Public Defender Division, CPCS as a whole, and, most importantly, to the clients we serve, make Ben a superb choice to take on the work of leading the Public Defender Division.

Please join me in congratulating Ben Keehn and welcoming him as the next Deputy Chief Counsel of the Public Defender Division of the Committee for Public Counsel Services.

Anthony J. Benedetti  
Chief Counsel  
Committee for Public Counsel Services  
44 Bromfield Street  
Boston, MA 02108  
617-988-8305