

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

(Washington, D.C., November 20, 2009) -- Phil Angelides, Chairman of the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission, and Bill Thomas, Vice Chairman, today announced the appointment of five key senior staff, effectively immediately. The Commission was created to investigate the causes of the financial collapse and to provide a full and fair accounting to the American people.

New key hires are:

- Christopher Seefer has been appointed as Assistant Director and Deputy General Counsel. He is taking a leave of absence from his partnership at the law firm of Coughlin Stoia Geller Rudman & Robbins LLP, where he has been litigating securities class actions, to join the Commission. He was previously senior investigator with the Office of Thrift Supervision where he investigated allegations of fraud and misconduct related to savings and loan institutions.
- Thomas Borgers, CFE, has been appointed as a Senior Investigator for the Commission. He is a certified fraud examiner with broad experience in financial services. Most recently, he developed recovery strategies for victims of Bernard Madoff. He was previously a manager and consultant for KPMG and senior investigator-in-charge for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC). He serves on the board of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, New York.
- Gary J. Cohen has been named Special Business Counsel. He is taking a leave of absence from his post as senior partner at Sidley Austin LLP, where he has specialized in investment advisory matters, private equity offerings, mezzanine debt transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate matters. Prior to joining Sidley, Mr. Cohen was a founding partner of a firm specializing in corporate matters, corporate and real estate securities and tax law.
- Mina Simhai has been appointed as Investigative Counsel. Most recently with the firm of Hogan and Hartson, she specialized in complex financial transactions typically involving complex global transactions. She has extensive experience in financial instruments such as swaps and derivatives.
- Carl McCarden has been named as a Financial Investigator for the Commission. He has significant experience in investment banking at both Credit Suisse and Bear Stearns, and has been a senior advisor on a series of large equity offerings, complex financings, and mergers and acquisitions. He previously served as an equities trader for Citigroup and Knight Securities.

"The Commission is extremely fortunate to have these talented professionals build out our team," said Tom Greene, who was appointed as Executive Director of the Commission in September. "They will help us to conduct the full and fair inquiry into the financial meltdown that the American people deserve."

Several senior staff were announced earlier this week: Bart Dzivi, Special Counsel; Martin Biegelman, Assistant Director; Thomas L. Krebs, Assistant Director and Deputy General Counsel; Bradley J. Bondi, Assistant Director and Deputy General Counsel; and Dixie Noonan, Investigative Counsel.

The 10-member bi-partisan Commission was created this year by Congress and is charged with examining the causes of the financial meltdown. It will also examine causes of the collapse of major financial institutions that failed or would have failed had they not received exceptional government assistance. The Commission has already begun its work, with findings and conclusions to be provided in a formal report to Congress and the President by December 15, 2010.