

Elin Swanson Katz, Consumer Counsel

Elin Swanson Katz was appointed Connecticut's Consumer Counsel by Governor Dannel P. Malloy in October 2011, and confirmed by the Connecticut House of Representatives on February 23, 2012 for a five-year term. She heads the Office of Consumer Counsel, an independent state agency that advocates on behalf of consumers in matters relating to electricity, water, natural gas, and telecommunications. The office has served as an independent voice for Connecticut's residents, municipalities, and businesses since 1978, working for high-quality utility service at a reasonable cost, sensible public policies and legislation, and, particularly in recent times, effective utility storm response.

Ms. Katz brings her experience from her prior work in both the public and private sectors to the office. Under her leadership, the OCC has been instrumental in the investigation of the historic power outages following 2011's Tropical Storm Irene, the 2011 Halloween Nor'easter, and 2012's Superstorm Sandy, and the crafting of recommendations and legislation to improve Connecticut's storm response and communications. She also negotiated the settlement of the Northeast Utilities-NStar merger with Connecticut Attorney General George Jepsen and other state officials, which resulted in hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits to Connecticut ratepayers. The OCC also continues its advocacy on behalf of ratepayers in the development of the State's Conservation and Load Management Plan, the Integrated Resource Plan, and the Comprehensive Energy Strategy.

Ms. Katz also serves *ex officio* on the Connecticut Energy Efficiency Board, chairs the Connecticut Energy Advisory Board, and serves on the Executive Committee of the National Association of State Utility Consumer Advocates.

Ms. Katz graduated from Cornell University and received her J.D., *cum laude*, from Boston University School of Law. She also holds a Master's in English with honors from Trinity College. Prior to joining the OCC, Ms. Katz practiced at law firms in Washington, D.C.; Boston; and Hartford. She also served as Assistant Counsel at the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection, taught at Trinity College in Hartford, and presently serves as Vice-Chair of the West Hartford Board of Education.