



United States Attorney's Office
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**JUSTICE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NELSON COHEN
AS UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF ALASKA**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The Justice Department today announced the appointment of Nelson Cohen to serve as the United States Attorney for the District of Alaska. Mr. Cohen will serve under an Attorney General Appointment. He succeeds First Assistant United States Attorney Deborah Smith, who has served as Acting United States Attorney under the Vacancy Reform Act since U.S. District Court Judge Tim Burgess resigned from the position to take a seat on the federal bench in 2005. Under the Vacancy Reform Act, First Assistant United States Attorneys can only serve for 210 days as Acting United States Attorneys and Ms. Smith's appointment expires on August 22, 2006.

Mr. Cohen comes to the District of Alaska with a varied and impressive history of service to the Department of Justice and to the legal community. Since 1987, Mr. Cohen has been an Assistant United States Attorney in the Western District of Pennsylvania, where he presently serves as the Deputy Criminal Division Chief overseeing the White Collar Crimes Section.

Before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in Pittsburgh, Mr. Cohen practiced law for 10 years in Alaska: first as an Assistant United States Attorney responsible for both criminal and civil cases, with an emphasis on drug prosecutions, medical malpractice defense and appellate practice, and later as a private practitioner in Anchorage.

Mr. Cohen started his career as a trial attorney in the Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, District Attorney's Office, where he prosecuted robbery and homicide cases.

In addition to his legal experience, Mr. Cohen has been a presenter at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, the National Health Care Anti-Fraud Association and the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. He has also served as a Continuing Legal Education Instructor.

Mr. Cohen earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh, and his law degree from the Duquesne University School of Law.

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