

NJ STATE COMMISSION OF INVESTIGATION



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Immediate Release**

**Contact: Kathy Riley, SCI
609-292-6767**

SCI ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF COUNSEL/DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

TRENTON – The State Commission of Investigation today announced the hiring of attorney Salma Chand as Chief Counsel/Deputy Director adding to the leadership ranks of New Jersey’s premier independent government watchdog agency.

Ms. Chand most recently served as senior counsel in Governor Philip D. Murphy’s administration, providing legal guidance and policy leadership for numerous state departments. In her new position, she will serve as the SCI’s top legal officer, supervisor and advisor across a wide range of important responsibilities.

“Salma’s legal expertise and knowledge of government will be a tremendous asset and welcome addition to the Commission’s staff,” said SCI Chair Tiffany Williams Brewer.

The Commission also promoted SCI Investigative Counsel Colin Keiffer, who has worked at the SCI since January 2022, to Deputy Chief Counsel. Mr. Keiffer has been serving in his new role since August.

Williams Brewer praised the new legal leadership as a force that would fortify the agency's already robust management team, help the organization raise its profile, and improve its productivity. "I look forward to the leadership from both Salma and Colin in continuing the SCI's excellent work in service of the citizens of New Jersey," she said.

In 2018, Ms. Chand joined the Murphy administration as an associate counsel in the Governor's Counsel's Office, advising on K-12 and higher education legislation, policy, regulations, and strategic litigation. The following year she became the Executive Legal Affairs Officer for the New Jersey Department of Education, overseeing implementation of key policy initiatives, communications, and legislative and legal affairs. She later served as the Executive Director of the School Ethics Commission. A graduate of Rutgers University, Ms. Chand earned her law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law.

Governor Murphy praised Salma's efforts in furthering his administration's mission of delivering a top-notch education to all New Jersey students.

"She has served the people of New Jersey with passion and dedication, providing critical legal expertise to help advance our state's nation-leading public education system through the disruptions of a once-in-a-century pandemic," said Murphy. "Salma will be deeply missed, but I am confident that her talent, integrity, and

character will serve her well as Chief Counsel/Deputy Director at the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation.”

Mr. Keiffer was previously a Deputy Attorney General in the Office of Public Integrity and Accountability within the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General. Earlier in his career, Mr. Keiffer served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney with the Department of Justice, District of New Jersey and worked at the New Jersey Office of the Attorney General, Office of the Insurance Fraud Prosecutor. A graduate of the University of Michigan, he earned a Master’s Degree from Vanderbilt University and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School.

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The State Commission of Investigation is an independent New Jersey watchdog agency established in 1968 to investigate organized crime and corruption, waste of tax money and other abuses of the public trust. Copies of public reports are available at the Commission’s offices or via its Web site at www.nj.gov/sci.