

The 2018 elections signaled potential changes in leadership in a number of insurance departments. Some of those changes are beginning to take shape as new governors take office.

New commissioner appointments have been announced in Arizona, Colorado, Hawaii, Minnesota and Wisconsin. These appointments are as follows:

- **Arizona** – Keith Schraad, who is currently serving as Interim Director. Mr. Schraad is the former CEO of Online Insurance Corporation and is also a former Kansas State Senator, with an extensive technology background.
- **Colorado** – Michael Conway, who was serving as Interim Commissioner, was appointed on January 1, 2019. Mr. Conway was the deputy commissioner before moving to the Interim role. He is a former Colorado assistant attorney general.
- **Hawaii** – In a surprise announcement on January 4, 2019, Incumbent Governor David Ige announced that Colin Hayashida would be elevated from his product oversight role at the Hawaii Department of Insurance, and current commissioner and NAIC Vice President Gordon Ito would move into the Deputy role at the Hawaii Department. Mr. Hayashida has worked at the Department of Insurance since 2000.
- **Minnesota** – Steve Kelley, former Minnesota State Senator and a senior fellow at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota, was named as Commissioner for the Minnesota Department of Commerce. Mr. Kelley is also a former commercial litigator from Mackall, Crouse and Moore PLC in Minneapolis.
- **Wisconsin** – Governor-elect Tony Evers announced the appointment of Mark Afable, former executive vice president and chief legal officer of American Family Insurance Company, as Insurance Commissioner, where he had served for over 24 years.

Tennessee has already announced that Commissioner Julie McPeak will remain in her position as Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Commerce.

In election results, Democrat Ricardo Lara was declared the winner in the California Insurance Commissioner's race. Commissioner-elect Lara is currently a California State Senator from Los Angeles. He was previously a legislative staffer. As a state senator, he served on the joint legislative audit committee and the banking and finance committees.

Announcements are awaited from new governors in several states, including Alaska, Connecticut, Illinois, Michigan, Nevada and South Dakota. Governors elected in 2018 who have yet to confirm appointees are Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Idaho, Iowa, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Texas, Vermont and Wyoming. Few changes are likely in these latter seats.

Please do not hesitate to contact Mary Jo Hudson if you have any questions.

Contact

Mary Jo Hudson

Partner, Columbus

T +1 614 365 2732

E mj.hudson@squirepb.com