DAVID S. LAPP PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

WILLIAM F. FIELDS DEPUTY PEOPLE'S COUNSEL

GARY L. ALEXANDER JOSEPH G. CLEAVER FREDERICK H. HOOVER PATRICK E. O'LAUGHLIN JACOB M. OUSLANDER ANNA K. RYON PHILIP H. SHEEHAN, JR. ASSISTANT PEOPLE'S COUNSEL STATE OF MARYLAND



**OFFICE OF PEOPLE'S COUNSEL** 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 2102 Baltimore, MD 21202 (410) 767-8150 • (800) 207-4055 Facsímile (410) 333-3616 <u>www.opc.maryland.gov</u> BRANDI NIELAND DIRECTOR, CONSUMER ASSISTANCE UNIT

GAIL V. TUCKER Administrative Program Manager

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: David S. Lapp 410-767-8162 davids.lapp@maryland.gov

## David S. Lapp Sworn in as New People's Counsel

(April 7, 2021) -- David S. Lapp was sworn in today as the new People's Counsel in a brief ceremony at the Circuit Court for Montgomery County. Lapp, who has served in an acting capacity since January 1, 2021, was appointed to the position by Maryland Attorney General Brian E. Frosh.

"I am humbled and honored by this opportunity to serve the State of Maryland and its residential customers," Lapp said. "It's a very exciting time to be at the Office of People's Counsel. New technologies are changing the industry, presenting opportunities to benefit residential consumers and the environment. And the pandemic makes our work promoting consumer interests more important than ever."

Lapp has a long history of public service and public interest advocacy, with more than 30 years of experience as a lawyer and writer working on public policy, regulation and corporate accountability in important parts of the economy. Until his appointment as Acting People's Counsel, Mr. Lapp worked from 2004-2020 as an Assistant Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General of Maryland. For more than 10 years prior to his work at OAG, Mr. Lapp advocated on behalf of consumer and environmental interests in the field of utility regulation. "I am thankful to Attorney General Frosh for his nomination and this opportunity to serve the State as People's Counsel," Lapp said. "I will work hard to make regulation work effectively to improve utility performance for the State and its residential customers."

Created in 1924, the Office of People's Counsel is the oldest utility consumer advocacy office of its kind in the United States. The Office represents Maryland's residential consumers in utility regulatory matters before federal and state agencies and courts. The People's Counsel is appointed for a five-year term by the Attorney General of Maryland, with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Office acts independently of other parts of Maryland government.

\* \* \*