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Governor Appoints Fay To Board

Board Elects Hughes Chairman, Campbell Vice Chair, Gibbs Secretary

New Orleans—John F. Fay Jr., became the newest member of the Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans today. Governor Kathleen Babineaux Blanco appointed him to the Board for a five-year term, succeeding John Kallenborn, as one of four Orleans Parish members on the regional Board, which governs port operations in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard parishes.

A native of Baltimore, Md., Fay earned degrees in economics and history from the University of Pennsylvania in 1979 and graduated cum laude from the Tulane School of Law in 1983. Fay served as associate and partner in the maritime law firm of O'Neil Eichin in New Orleans from 1983 until 1999, when he was named partner in the civil litigation firm of Deutsch, Kerrigan & Stiles LLP. The firm's practice focuses on litigation and arbitration of maritime disputes, including cargo claims, charter party disputes, liens claims and defense of personal injury claims for domestic and international clients.

"I am looking forward to working with the Board of Commissioners to move the Port of New Orleans forward," Fay said. "I worked closely on maritime issues surrounding the Port for nearly 25 years and feel I have a broad perspective of the industry."

Port President and CEO Gary P. LaGrange said Fay's background would be an asset to the entire Port community.

"John Fay's extensive experience with maritime matters will bring a new perspective to our Board," LaGrange said. "I am pleased to welcome him as a commissioner and look forward to working with him."

A member of the New Orleans Board of Trade, Fay has served in various positions on its board since 1999. Fay also served on the board of the Louisiana Association of Waterways Operators and Shipyards from 1998 to 2003 and is a member of the Trinity Episcopal School Board of Trustees. Fay's experience also spans various leadership roles in the Maritime Law Association, Louisiana State Bar Association and the American Bar Association.

Fay and his wife, Christina, have four children: Bonnie, Jack, Kelly and Hannah.

In other news, the Board elected Danny Hughes as its chairman. Hughes succeeds Conrad H. Appel III, whose term as chairman expired. Mr. Appel will continue to serve as a commissioner. James O. Campbell will take over as vice chairman and Capt. A.J. Gibbs will serve as secretary-treasurer.

“The staff at the Port of New Orleans, along with our customers, partners and commissioners—past and present—have generated some outstanding plans and opportunities. It’s time to put these great initiatives to work; time for the ‘rubber to hit the road,’” Hughes said.

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“Hopefully, we will see the development of the Riverfront, increases in our container business, more cruise passengers and finalizing our Hurricane Katrina issues like cold storage relocation, insurance, and capital projects in the near future. Lastly, the development of the Riverfront means the Port will be looking toward new venues for our expanding operations.”

Hughes, one of two members representing Jefferson Parish, has 20 years of experience in domestic and international construction in such diverse fields as oil field construction, ship repair, maritime infrastructure, hospitality and retail. He owns Diversified Group LLC.

Hughes earned a mechanical engineering degree from the University of Texas in 1983. He received the President’s Award from the New Orleans Chapter of the Propeller Club of the United States. A licensed commercial pilot, Hughes is also a certified divemaster and sailor.

Hughes is married and has four children and two stepchildren.

The Board is made up of seven commissioners that serve five-year staggered terms. The unsalaried positions are appointed by the Governor of Louisiana from a list of three nominees submitted by 19 local civic, labor, education and maritime groups. The Board reflects the three-parish jurisdiction, with four members from Orleans Parish, two from Jefferson Parish and one from St. Bernard Parish.

Other members include Samuel Nunez and Thomas Westfeldt II.

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