



State of Arizona

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Governor Jan Brewer Announces Staff Changes

New Deputy Chief of Staff and Director of Policy Named to Governor's Team

PHOENIX – Governor Jan Brewer today announced key changes to her senior staff.

Scott Smith, Director of the Arizona Department of Administration, has been named Deputy Chief of Staff. The announcement marks a return to the Governor's Office for Mr. Smith, who previously served Governor Brewer as Director of Legislative Affairs and Deputy Chief of Staff for Legislative Affairs. In his new role, Mr. Smith – along with Chief of Staff Eileen Klein – will oversee day-to-day operations of the Governor's Office and executive agencies. He will maintain his current duties managing ADOA.

Page Gonzales has been named Director of Policy for the Governor's Office. Ms. Gonzales, who currently serves as Deputy Policy Director, will take the place of Richard Bark. Mr. Bark, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy, has announced his resignation after nearly three years of loyal service to Governor Brewer. Mr. Bark will be joining Freeport McMoRan Copper & Gold as Director of Government Relations and Environmental Counsel. His resignation is effective October 3, 2011.

Also departing the Governor's Office is Brian McNeil, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations. Mr. McNeil has been a trusted advisor to Governor Brewer since she took office, and played a critical role in building the administration. He will be joining Public Policy Partners. Mr. McNeil's resignation is effective September 27, 2011.

"It is truly with mixed emotions that I announce these staff changes," said Governor Brewer. "I'm thrilled to have Scott Smith rejoin my senior staff, and to announce the promotion of Page Gonzales. Both are talented public servants who I know will continue to honorably serve my administration and the people of Arizona.

"The departures of Richard Bark and Brian McNeil are more difficult. I've known each since my days in the State Senate when they were on legislative staff. As Governor, they've truly been with me every step of the way – through good times and bad – and have played integral roles in my administration.

"Richard is one of Arizona's sharpest policy minds, and was the lead developer of my policy and legal agenda. Brian is a vast reservoir of knowledge on policy and government operations, and has been instrumental in hiring and training a new generation of public service leaders. Both men have been loyal to my administration, honorable in their public service and passionate in their devotion to their work and this state. I am grateful to each for their willingness to sacrifice personal pursuits and time with their families in order to serve this administration and Arizona."

In his return to the Governor's Office, Mr. Smith brings with him more than 20 years of experience in state government. He has worked in multiple capacities for the Department of Administration and the Department of Corrections, served as the Director of State Relations for Arizona State University, and began his career with the Arizona House of Representatives.

Likewise, Ms. Gonzales has been a fixture at the State Capitol over the last 15 years, and has experience working in all three branches of government. She joined the Governor's Office in 2009 as a policy advisor for local government and transportation issues. Earlier this year, she was named Deputy Policy Director. Before joining the Governor's team, Ms. Gonzales worked in different capacities for Maricopa Community Colleges, the Arizona Supreme Court, Maricopa County and the Arizona House of Representatives.

"I'm disappointed anytime we have to say 'goodbye' to talented staff members, but staff changes are a certainty in every administration," said Governor Brewer. "With devoted, conscientious public servants like Scott Smith and Page Gonzales, I'm confident that my administration is in good hands."

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