



State of Nevada
Department of Business & Industry

Director's Office

555 East Washington Avenue, Suite 4900
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101
Phone (702) 486-2750 | Fax (702) 486-2758
business.nv.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE — November 1, 2011

CONTACT: Elisabeth Daniels, Public Information Officer

PHONE: (702) 486-2756 E-MAIL: edaniels@business.nv.gov

Business & Industry Appoints New Labor Commissioner

Las Vegas – Nevada Department of Business & Industry Director Terry Johnson today announced the appointment of Thoran Towler as Nevada Labor Commissioner. Mr. Towler will be based in Carson City.

Nevada's Labor Commissioner has regulatory authority over wage and hour and child labor laws, and establishing and enforcing the minimum wage and prevailing wage rates for public works projects. The Labor Commissioner also investigates fraudulent employment practices, issues permits to producers of film and stage shows, and licenses and regulates private employment agencies and apprenticeship training programs.

Mr. Towler, an attorney, was most recently a Deputy Attorney General for the Nevada Attorney General's Office. Prior to that, he worked as a Deputy District Attorney for the Carson City District Attorney's Office. He has also worked as a litigation associate in the Employment Law Group for Jones Vargas and as a law clerk for the Fourth Judicial District Court in Elko.

Mr. Towler received a B.S. in Technology from Walla Walla College and a J.D. from Gonzaga University School of Law. He is a member of the State Bar of Nevada.

"I have no doubt that Mr. Towler will be highly effective at advocating for working families, while educating businesses on Nevada's labor laws and regulations," said Director Johnson.

“With the challenges of the current economy, my extensive experience in employment law will be a great asset to those served by the Labor Commissioner’s Office,” said Mr. Towler.

Mr. Towler, who begins his appointment on Monday, November 7, joins two other recent regulatory appointments to head Business & Industry agencies. On October 24, 2011, Director Johnson appointed Scott Kipper as Insurance Commissioner and James Westrin as Commissioner of the Mortgage Lending Division.

“Striking the appropriate regulatory balance will be important as we emerge from this recession,” said Johnson. *“I strongly believe that these appointments will ensure sound regulation that protects consumers and employees, while making Nevada more competitive as a business friendly location.”*

For more information about the State Department of Business & Industry, visit <http://business.nv.gov>.

###