

*May 16, 2018*

**Statement of Chairman Joe Simons  
On the Appointment of Senior Staff Leadership**

As the Federal Trade Commission's new Chairman, one of my most important responsibilities is to select the senior staff who will serve during my term. I am delighted to announce the appointment of four highly qualified individuals to key senior staff positions:

- Bruce Hoffman, Director, Bureau of Competition;
- Andrew Smith, Director, Bureau of Consumer Protection;
- Bruce Kobayashi, Director, Bureau of Economics; and
- Alden Abbott, General Counsel.

These individuals will enrich the FTC with their combination of deep substantive expertise, managerial skills, and reputation for excellence in their fields. They share my vision of an agency committed to vigorous enforcement, zealous advocacy, and thoughtful policy work on behalf of American consumers. They know, too, that the Commission under my leadership will be characterized by respect for all individuals and viewpoints, and by collegiality when disagreements arise, an approach that has long been a hallmark of the FTC.

I am disappointed that two of my new colleagues have chosen to turn Mr. Smith's appointment into a source of unnecessary controversy. I am highly confident that Mr. Smith will be an effective leader of the Bureau of Consumer Protection. He is widely respected as one of our country's best and most experienced consumer protection lawyers.

The Commission has a long history of welcoming private sector experts into temporary government service. Many consumer protection and competition luminaries consider their time at the Commission to be a highlight of their careers. Regardless of which party enjoys political power, it is impossible to attract high caliber professionals to the FTC without encountering some conflicts. That is precisely why the agency has well-established processes for dealing with recusals, to ensure appropriate oversight and minimal disruption while strictly adhering to ethics rules.

The unprecedented opposition to Mr. Smith's appointment further overlooks the critical role of the Commission's talented career staff. While the FTC benefits from a broad range of enforcement and policy tools, our people are by far our greatest asset. Most of the day-to-day work of the Commission – including case generation, investigations, and preparation of enforcement recommendations – is handled directly by career staff, and they do an outstanding job. When a political appointee is recused, the Commission relies even more heavily on these seasoned career professionals to allocate resources and tee up recommendations for the Commissioners, who are the ultimate decisionmakers. When Mr. Smith is recused on a matter, I know BCP's career managers and staff will ensure that American consumers are still well protected.