

BOARD NAMES JAMES J. LEO AS NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

James J. Leo has been appointed by the Petroleum UST Release Compensation Board as it's new Executive Director. He replaces Carol A. DeVore who resigned effective July 25, 2003 to enjoy retirement.

Jim graduated from Bowling Green State University in 1986 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree. He received a law degree from Case Western in 1990. Immediately following law school, Jim entered private practice in Cleveland, Ohio where he handled a variety of civil and criminal cases.

In 1991, Jim went to the Ohio Attorney General's Office and eventually became legal counsel to the Board. In that capacity, he assisted in drafting administrative rules and represented the Board in administrative hearings and appeals to common pleas courts, appellate courts, and the Ohio Supreme Court.

Jim transferred to the Employment Law Section of the Attorney General's Office in 2000. He now returns to the Board, in a different capacity from that of legal counsel, but to the same professional and friendly environment that he has always known.

SALUTE!

On July 25th a few tears were shed as Carol DeVore said goodbye to the staff of the Board on her last day as Executive Director. Carol had served in that capacity since September of 1994 and previously was the Assistant Director.

Under Carol's direction, many improvements and accomplishments took place at the Board. Several improvements occurred internally through the establishment of policies and procedures to fairly and efficiently administer claims. Several others occurred externally through improved reimbursement practices that maximized allowable compensation and maintained Fund solvency. A list of those accomplishments would be too lengthy to include here.

Carol's plans are to travel frequently and spend a considerable amount of time with her husband, daughters, and grandchildren. Frequent travel will be necessary because her daughters live on opposite sides of the country (New York City and San Francisco). She will spend the first month of her new career enjoying the company of her grandchildren on Martha's Vineyard.

The Board and staff join with our stakeholders in wishing Carol the very best and offering a heartfelt "Thanks."