



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY JOINS BROWN RUDNICK

Paul G. Afonso brings wealth of legal and regulatory experience to augment firm's energy and government law practices

Boston, MA and Washington, D.C., June 12, 2006 – Brown Rudnick, a premier international law firm, today announced that attorney Paul G. Afonso has joined the firm, bringing 20 years of energy, legislative and regulatory experience and a strong background in international trade law.

Mr. Afonso served as Chairman of the Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Energy (DTE) from 2003 to 2005, and since then has remained on the DTE board as a commissioner. He is noted for his expertise in regulatory policies and legislation related to electricity, gas, water, cable television, telecommunications, pipeline engineering and safety, railway, trucking and bus services. At Brown Rudnick, Mr. Afonso will focus his practice on these industry sectors, helping clients navigate through complex state and federal regulatory policies. As Co-Practice Leader of the firm's Boston Government Law & Strategies Group, Mr. Afonso plans to divide his time between Brown Rudnick's Boston and Washington offices.

While at the DTE, Mr. Afonso served as Chairman of the Energy Facilities Siting Board, the agency charged with reviewing major generation, electric transmission, gas storage facilities and certain gas pipelines. This agency also represents the Commonwealth before the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on projects within Massachusetts that are subject to that agency's jurisdiction. As Chairman, he oversaw the review of a key petition for the Cape Wind project, the nation's first major off-shore wind project. He also led the review of a major infrastructure project with a 345 kV electric transmission line into the greater Boston area.



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Before being appointed as Chairman of the Massachusetts DTE, Mr. Afonso served as that department's general counsel, where he acted as chief legal and policy advisor to the chairman and commissioners. In this role, he helped oversee state regulatory policies, governing rates and quality of service for electric generation, gas supply, telecommunications, cable television and transportation.

Mr. Afonso also served a term as President of the regional body of New England public utility regulators - New England Conference of Public Utility Commissioners.

Complementing his background in state matters, Mr. Afonso also brings extensive experience in federal regulatory issues. He has served as legislative liaison to federal regulatory agencies, including the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Assisting the Office of the Attorney General, he has also defended DTE orders on appeal before the Supreme Judicial Court and federal courts.

"Paul Afonso is a highly respected legal and regulatory expert, and we are very pleased that he has decided to join the firm," said Brown Rudnick CEO Joseph F. Ryan. "His insight into energy and telecommunications issues paired with a broad understanding of state and federal political landscapes will prove to be a great asset not only for our energy, utility and telecommunications clients, but for other clients dealing with regulatory and public policy issues."

Cheryl M. Cronin, Co-Practice Leader of the Firm's Boston Government Law & Strategies Group, commented, "I have known Paul for many years, and I am delighted that he will be my colleague. His role as commissioner for a state regulatory agency combined with his legal experience in the private sector offer a unique business perspective that will augment our profile in local, state and federal government."

"I am delighted to join Brown Rudnick and work with some of the top energy and government law attorneys," said Paul Afonso. "I look forward to helping clients achieve success managing the complex interrelationship between federal and state regulation."

Prior to his term with the Massachusetts DTE, Mr. Afonso held positions in the public sector, in addition to practicing law in the private sector. He began his career in politics as an



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elected delegate to the Rhode Island Constitutional Convention, representing the 91st district in Bristol, RI, and served as a staff assistant in Washington with the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. Afonso received his Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center and a B.S. in Finance, *cum laude*, from the Boston College Carroll School of Management.

Consistent with Brown Rudnick's deep community involvement, Mr. Afonso is actively involved in the Portuguese community and is a member of the Portuguese-American Leadership Council of the U.S. and the Portuguese Heritage Scholarship Foundation's Board of Directors. He speaks Portuguese fluently and co-hosts a weekly Portuguese-American public affairs program on WHTB 1400 AM. Mr. Afonso will also handle legal work involving business opportunities in Portugal and Brazil.

About Brown Rudnick Berlack Israels LLP

Brown Rudnick is an international law firm with offices in the United States and Europe. The firm's attorneys provide representation across key areas of the law: Energy, Government Law & Strategies, Structured & Commercial Finance, Corporate & Securities, Bankruptcy & Corporate Restructuring, Real Estate, Intellectual Property, Complex Litigation and Health Care. Combining a dedication to excellence with a commitment to superior client service, Brown Rudnick provides its clients with a breadth and depth of expertise uniquely suited to their legal needs. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnick.com.

The Brown Rudnick Center for the Public Interest is a measure of the Firm's strong commitment to the community and serves as an umbrella entity encompassing the Firm's pro bono legal work, charitable giving, community involvement and public interest efforts. For more information, please visit www.brownrudnickcenter.com.

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