




**TO:** The Honorable the Members of the Board of Regents  
**FROM:** MaryEllen Elia  
**SUBJECT:** Appointment of Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs  
**DATE:** November 14, 2016  
**AUTHORIZATIONS:** 

**Issue for Decision**

Will the Board of Regents approve my appointment of Alison B. Bianchi to the position of Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs?

**Reason for Consideration**

Alison Bianchi will bring to the Counsel position more than 14 years of experience in education policy and law through positions at the State Education Department and the New York State School Boards Association. For the past six years, Ms. Bianchi served as Deputy Counsel at the Department, providing legal advice and counsel to the Board of Regents, Commissioner and Department staff on critical policy matters and key initiatives and managing the day-to-day operations of the office. Prior to that, she served in NYSED's Office of State Assessment and as project manager for various Department initiatives. Previously, Ms. Bianchi also was associate editor at Lawyers Weekly USA where she researched and produced stories on state and federal case law and legislation. Ms. Bianchi holds a bachelor's degree from Colgate University and earned her juris doctorate at Boston University School of Law.

**Proposed Handling**

The Board of Regents will review Ms. Bianchi's credentials and experience in Executive Session on November 14, 2016.

**Recommendation**

I recommend that you take the following action:

VOTED, that the Board of Regents approve the appointment of Alison B. Bianchi to the position of Counsel and Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs effective November 16, 2016.