



# DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

# NEWS

## URBAN MASS TRANSPORTATION ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

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UMTA 76-94

WASHINGTON, D.C. --Secretary of Transportation William T. Coleman has announced the appointment of James M. Christian as Chief Counsel to the Department's Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA).

In his new post, Christian is the chief legal advisor to the UMTA Administrator, Robert E. Patricelli, with respect to program, legislative and regulatory matters. He will provide coordination with the Department's Office of the General Counsel and the Department of Justice.

In making the announcement, Secretary Coleman noted the excellent qualifications Christian brings to the post of Chief Counsel. He joins UMTA from the position of Deputy Minority Counsel of the House of Representatives District of Columbia Committee, a Congressional committee that oversees Washington, D.C. governmental operations.

Christian is familiar with transportation and urban problems. His primary responsibility as Deputy Minority Counsel included analyzing and reviewing all legislative actions of the District of Columbia Government in such areas as transportation, taxation, urban development and social services. In this capacity, Christian was involved with a variety of urban problems that are typical of major urban areas, including matters concerning the Urban Mass Transportation Administration.

Prior to joining the Congressional staff, Christian was an associate of the Washington, D.C. law firm of Arent,

Fox, Kintner, Plotkin & Kahn and subsequently, the firm of Hudson, Leftwich and Davenport. In this latter position, Christian concentrated on coordinating Federal activities on behalf of the City of Detroit.

The new UMTA Chief Counsel is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Lawyers' Study Group, president of the Potomac Fiscal Society, a member of the American Bar Association, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, District of Columbia Bar and National Bar Association.

A native of Pineville, Louisiana, Christian received his B.A. degree in political science in 1970 from Howard University, Washington, D.C., and a J.D. degree in 1973 from Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was a member of the Harvard Student District Attorneys. While attending Howard, he was president of the undergraduate student body, a senator in the Student Senate and a member of the University President's Transition Task Force.

Christian resides in Silver Spring, Maryland.

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