

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95834
(916) 419-2500



CONTACT: John Carr
(916) 419-2525

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Governor Brown Appoints Jacob Appelsmith as Director of the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control

(Sacramento) - Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. today announced the appointment of 47 year old Jacob Appelsmith of Sacramento as Director of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC).

Appelsmith began his career as a lawyer with Pillsbury, Madison & Sutro in San Francisco, where he worked for six years as a commercial litigator. He joined the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General, in 1994. He began working in the Employment Law Section. He eventually became the Department of Justice's general counsel for personnel and equal employment opportunity matters, as well as the statewide head of the employment law section.

In 2008, Appelsmith was promoted to Special Assistant to then Attorney General Edmund G. Brown Jr. on matters pertaining to law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and was also appointed Chief of the California Bureau of Gambling Control. As Chief of the Bureau, Appelsmith oversaw regulatory and criminal enforcement relating to California's 60 tribal casinos and 90 card rooms.

Appelsmith graduated from Middlebury College in Vermont in 1985. He was Phi Beta Kappa and was awarded the History Department's highest honor award. He returned to his native Berkeley to attend law school, graduating from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law in 1988. While at Boalt, he worked as a student clerk to California Supreme Court Justice Allen Broussard. Appelsmith was an Associate Editor of the Industrial Relations Law Journal, and clerked at law firms in New York and Portland, Maine.

In his new capacity at ABC, Appelsmith will oversee a Department that is responsible for the administration, licensing and regulation of businesses that manufacture, distribute and sell alcoholic beverages in California. In addition, Appelsmith will be a Senior Advisor to the Governor.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency.