

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC



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BPOA Commissioner Basil L. Merenda Promoted to Deputy Secretary

On Nov. 23, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs (BPOA) **Commissioner Basil L. Merenda** was sworn in by **Secretary Pedro A. Cortés** as the Department of State's deputy secretary for regulatory programs. Deputy Secretary Merenda continues to serve as the commissioner of BPOA.

As deputy secretary, Merenda will be responsible for supervising the Bureau of Enforcement & Investigation as well as other Department of State regulatory programs. He works directly with Secretary Cortés, who recommended the commissioner's promotion to **Governor Edward G. Rendell**.



Deputy Secretary Basil Merenda, left, after being sworn in by Secretary of State Pedro Cortés.

"It was an honor to be named by Governor Rendell to serve as deputy secretary, and I am thrilled that I can continue as BPOA commissioner," said Merenda, who is one of the the

longest-serving BPOA commissioners in the bureau's history.

Merenda will be dividing his time between the deputy secretary's office in the North Office Building of the Capitol Complex and BPOA's office at Penn Center, where he will continue his work on behalf of the public by overseeing more than 750,000 licensees and 29 licensure boards.

When asked how he will manage to carry out this double duty, Merenda responded, "I have outstanding staff - the best in state government - and a top-notch deputy commissioner, **Mark Vessella**; and I have been blessed with big shoulders and a good work ethic."

Merenda continued, "Rest assured we will not miss a beat in continuing to make BPOA and its 29 licensure boards even more accessible, responsive and accountable to the legislature, our licensees and the public we are sworn to protect."

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