



For more information contact:  
Paula Calimafde, President and General Counsel  
(301) 951-9325 or calimafd@paleyrothman.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**John Grau of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) Becomes 2016 Chair of Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC)**

Washington, DC – Effective February 4, 2016, John Grau, Chief Executive Officer of the National Electrical Contractors Association, has assumed the position of Chair of the Small Business Legislative Council (SBLC). The Chair of the SBLC is an annually elected position. Mr. Grau succeeds Jerry Heppes, Chief Executive Officer of the Door Security and Safety Professionals (DHI), who served as Chair of the SBLC in 2015.

“Jerry Heppes was one of the most active and dedicated Chairs that I have had the pleasure to work with. The SBLC benefited significantly from Jerry’s time as Chair” said SBLC President and General Counsel Paula Calimafde, Esq. “I am truly looking forward to working with John Grau in 2016. John has been a respected and leading voice for small business for many years and I am confident that the SBLC will benefit greatly from his leadership.”

Earlier this year, the SBLC announced that the Council’s top priorities for 2016 will be improving the regulatory environment for small businesses, tax reform, and health care.

“Small businesses need protection and relief from burdensome and unnecessarily complicated laws and regulations that increase costs and stifle growth. The SBLC is a well-respected voice on Capitol Hill and plays a critical role in protecting small business interests in the regulatory and legislative process. As Chair, I look forward to helping the SBLC continue to grow in 2016.” said Mr. Grau.

The SBLC is an independent, permanent coalition of 50 national trade and professional associations whose goal is to maximize the advocacy and presence of small business on Federal legislative and regulatory policy issues, and to disseminate information on the impact of public policy on small businesses.

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