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**James C. Condos, Secretary of State
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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

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Secretary of State Jim Condos Hires New Corporations Division Director

Montpelier, VT- Secretary of State Jim Condos announces today that Ali Sarafzade has been hired to lead the Corporations Division for the Secretary of State's office, effective immediately. A Montpelier resident with experience in economic development and business services Sarafzade has a unique mix of public and private sector experience, including roles in the Vermont Department of Economic Housing and Community Development; as Assistant General Counsel for the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs in Washington DC; and as a fellow with the U.S. Senate Committee on Finance. Sarafzade's private sector experience includes work in strategic planning and project management with startups and portfolio companies of larger private equity entities.

As the new director, Sarafzade will be tasked with evaluating the processes and protocols of the myriad of business services provided by the Corporations Division.

Secretary Condos states, "Ali brings to this position a wealth of experience and keen business acumen, and I am confident he will lead the Corporations Division to new heights of efficiency, effectiveness and service delivery that Vermont businesses will welcome and appreciate. We are fortunate to have him join our office and I look forward to the future direction of the Corporations Division with Ali at the helm."

Sarafzade is a graduate of both Duke University's Fuqua School of Business (MBA) and the University of Virginia School of Law (JD) where he was an assistant editor of the Virginia Tax Review, a corporate law journal.

The Corporations Division of the Secretary of State's Office processed 8,997 new business applications last year and received more than \$3,400,000 in revenues from fees collected.

Jim Condos is Vermont's Secretary of State, after serving eight years as a Vermont State Senator, 18 years in local government, and 30+ years of private sector business experience.

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