

Former Bar President Keeney Joins Legal Aid Society

Former D.C. Bar president Jack Keeney, a partner at Hogan Lovells, began work January 31 as director of the Barbara McDowell Appellate Advocacy Project at the Legal Aid Society of the District of Columbia. The project aims to help the civil legal services community develop a poverty law reform agenda, bringing appellate litigation that may influence laws to help poor litigants living in the nation's capital.

"This is an incredible opportunity for me. It's an opportunity to be hands-on in writing the appellate briefs, doing the appellate arguments, but even more fundamentally, in helping to plan and develop the law reform strategy to help D.C.'s poor," Keeney said. "Hogan has been absolutely great in terms of the pro bono that I have done here in my 32 years. It's now time, in this time of crisis for legal aid providers, to be doing more of it."

His transition to Legal Aid received deep support from his colleagues at Hogan Lovells, which made an in-kind donation of certain administrative services to assist Legal Aid.

"While we will greatly miss Jack's leadership and substantial contributions to our practice and operations, it is hard to imagine a better fit for this vital work at Legal Aid," said J. Warren Gorrell Jr., co-chief executive officer of Hogan Lovells. "We all look forward to deepening our important relationship with Legal Aid as Jack becomes a leading voice in our appellate courts for those living in poverty in our city."

During his tenure at Hogan Lovells, Keeney focused his trial practice on complex litigation involving securities, fiduciary duties, legal malpractice, and federal election law. From 1989 to 1993, he served as partner-in-charge of the firm's community services department, which received the 1991 American Bar Association Pro Bono Publico Award for

outstanding law firm pro bono program. He joined the firm following a clerkship with Judge Alexander Harvey of the U.S. District Court for Maryland.

Keeney's commitment to both the D.C. community and legal field is apparent in his numerous affiliations. He served as chair of the Legal Needs Subcommittee of the D.C. Bar Public Service Activities Committee and served on the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Initiative Working Group.

The Appellate Advocacy Program was founded in 2004 and named in honor of its first director, Barbara McDowell, who died in 2009. "This is the project that, in addition to doing the briefs and oral arguments, helps to set the agenda in consultation and cooperation with many other players in the D.C. public interest community," Keeney said. "The idea that we can actually approach the problems of poverty in the District of Columbia, look for legal solutions, and then bring appropriate legal cases before the D.C. Court of Appeals to establish those rights—that is a very unique and exciting opportunity."—*T.L.*