

Mintz Levin Snags Ex-Gordon & Rees Employment Pro In DC

By **Matthew Guarnaccia**

Law360 (February 5, 2018, 9:22 PM EST) -- Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC on Monday said the former managing partner of Gordon & Rees LLP's D.C., Virginia and Maryland offices will rejoin the firm after more than 10 years away, bringing with him a stellar record on employment law matters in various transactions and disputes.

O'Kelly E. McWilliams III comes back to Mintz Levin in its Washington, D.C., office, where he will serve as a member in the firm's employment, labor and benefits practice. Working on behalf clients such as multinational corporations, private equity firms and hedge funds, McWilliams' practice involves drafting various employment agreements, including equity-based compensation and incentive plans, executive compensation deals, and severance and change in control agreements, according to the firm.



Much of McWilliams' work comes from the transactional side, and he is skilled in providing compensation and benefits advice for mergers and acquisitions, among other deals. In addition, McWilliams' practice includes assisting clients on compensation audits to help prevent pay disparity issues, as well as dispute resolution and certain litigation matters.

McWilliams told Law360 on Monday that despite leaving Mintz Levin in 2007, he has maintained his relationships with members of the firm. He now brings back with him a bolstered client rolodex and a greater amount of experience, and said the firm's capabilities will help him to use these tools even more effectively.

"I realized they could help me continue my business on the next level, particularly on transactional level where I have a number of clients in place," McWilliams said.

McWilliams is returning to Mintz Levin for the first time since 2007. He had a stint at Thelen Reid Brown Raysman & Steiner LLP — the firm now known as Thelen LLP — and at Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, before joining Gordon & Rees in 2012. McWilliams was named the **managing partner** of the Washington, D.C., office when he came to Gordon & Rees.

"We are delighted to welcome O'Kelly back to the firm," Mintz Levin managing member Bob Bodian said in a statement. "He is a top-notch lawyer and a wonderful person, dedicated to the highest level of client service. O'Kelly adds further depth and strength to the firm, our Washington team and the employment practice."

McWilliams said he defines success in his new role as being competitive in vying for and landing as many transactions as he can. With the increased capabilities of the firm at his disposal, McWilliams said he is looking forward to working on these deals in a way he could not before.

He also noted that he will have more time to focus on client service now that he is no longer responsible for the administrative duties that came with being a managing partner at Gordon & Rees.

McWilliams earned his bachelor's degree from Longwood University in 1990 and his law degree from the George Mason University School of Law in 1993.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.

