

BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

Mintz Levin picks up ex-Partners chief lawyer

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Law and Money Reporter
Boston Business Journal

The former top lawyer at Partners HealthCare is headed back to a law firm after more than three decades working inside companies as a general counsel.

Brent Henry is starting at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo PC as a partner in the firm's Boston office on Monday. He stepped down as general counsel of Partners in June after a decade and a half in the role.

"After 15 years at Partners, I looked for what might be a good next chapter, and it just seemed to me a law firm would be the most natural transition," Henry said.

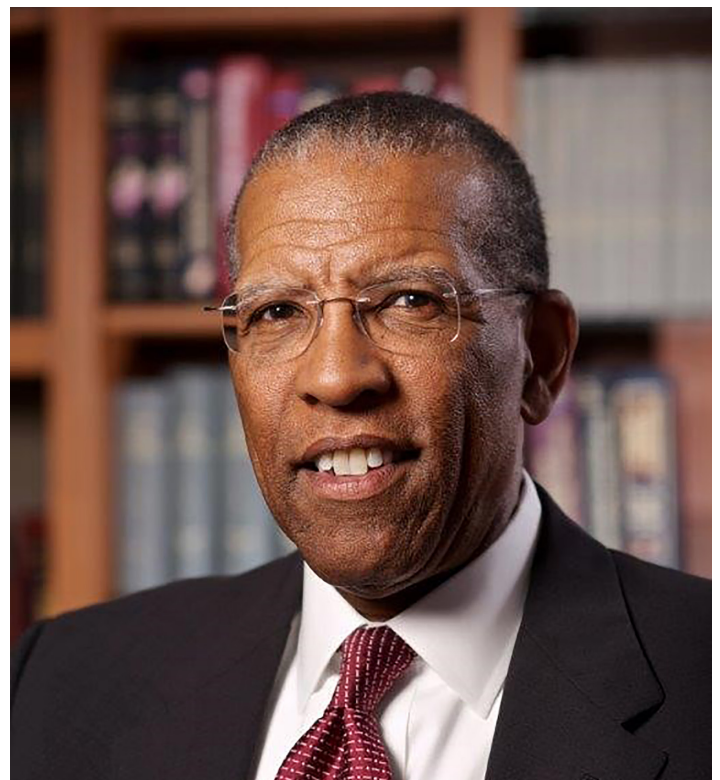
Mintz has counted Partners, the state's largest employer, as a client since before Henry joined the health care system in 2002. He's worked with the firm on a broad swath of matters, from bond financing to government investigations. "We used a lot of different law firms. The one we relied on most consistently was Mintz," he said.

While he sat in the GC's chair, Henry was impressed by Mintz's willingness and ability to work with the company on keeping its legal bills down – increasingly a focus for legal departments in many industries, but especially in cost-conscious health care.

"Mintz has been among the more creative law firms when it comes to negotiating alternative fee arrangements," Henry said. "It's something that a lot of in-house counsel generally push for, but at the end of day alternative fee arrangements that really work still tend to be rare."

As a member of Mintz's health law practice, Henry will spend a lot of time working with health care systems like Partners, he said. He'll also advise companies on potential changes to the Affordable Care Act and state regulations on health care, an area in which he expects to work closely with Mintz's lobbying arm, ML Strategies.

Before Henry joined Partners, he was general counsel at MedStar Health, a large health care organization in the Wash-



Brent Henry was general counsel of Partners HealthCare for 15 years.

ington, D.C. area. He held several positions prior to MedStar, including at the law firm Jones Day, where he started his legal career more than 40 years ago.

Mentoring younger health care lawyers will be an important part of Henry's Mintz tenure, he said. "When I started out there weren't a whole lot of health care lawyers of color," he said, "and one of my goals is to make sure there is more diversity both locally and nationally."