



CITY OF NEW YORK CONFLICTS OF INTEREST BOARD

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The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board Appoints Carolyn Lisa Miller As Executive Director

NEW YORK, NY – The New York City Conflicts of Interest Board (COIB) announced today that it has appointed Carolyn Lisa Miller as its Executive Director. Ms. Miller, selected with the unanimous support of the five-member Board, brings to the position two decades of distinguished leadership and service as a lawyer, most of which has been in the public sector.

Ms. Miller previously served eight years as the COIB Director of Enforcement from 2006 to 2015, and now returns to the Board as its Executive Director. She succeeds Mark Davies, who served for 22 years in this position until his retirement last month.

Ms. Miller was born in Manhattan and grew up in Edison, New Jersey, attending public schools there and making frequent visits to New York City to visit her grandparents, who lived in the same small rent-controlled apartment on West 104th Street in Manhattan since the 1930s, and her father at his office at Con Edison, where he worked as an electrical engineer. Ms. Miller received her Bachelor of Arts from Princeton University and her JD from Columbia Law School, where she was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

In her years as the COIB Director of Enforcement, she transformed its enforcement program, making it more responsive and effective in addressing violations. Her success was directly linked to her ability to partner with other City agencies. As a key member of the agency's leadership team, Ms. Miller championed a variety of initiatives throughout the agency, including a major push, in cooperation with the COIB training unit, to increase the visibility of the Board, through engaging training sessions to a new and increasing social media presence, all with the goal of providing public servants with the tools and resources needed to ensure compliance with the conflicts laws and thus avoid violations. In addition to her essential work in helping all City employees understand and appreciate their obligations under the City's conflicts of interest law, Ms. Miller also handled some of the highest profile enforcement actions brought by the Board during her tenure, involving elected officials and high-level appointed public servants. Yet she always found time to mentor numerous COIB attorneys providing them the critical guidance needed to develop their skills and succeed. For her exceptional work during as the Director of Enforcement, Ms. Miller was recognized with the Powell Pierpoint Award for Outstanding Service.

Ms. Miller's long career in public service has been wide and varied. She began at the New York City Law Department in 1995. She served as an Assistant Corporation Counsel in the Tort Division litigating cases in State Supreme Court for three years, two years of which she spent in the Bronx. In this role she worked with City employees of all ranks and gained a deep understanding of City operations and administration and a sensitivity to the challenges confronted by public servants each day. For this work, Ms. Miller earned both the Law

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Department's Legal Rookie of the Year (after her first year on the job) and its Exceptional Merit Award.

From 1998 to 2004, Ms. Miller served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Eastern District of New York in its Brooklyn office, handling a wide range of civil and criminal litigation in federal trial and appellate courts. Her work was recognized by the New York City Bar Association, which awarded her its Henry L. Stimson Medal for outstanding service as an AUSA.

Most recently, from 2015 to 2016, Miller served as a Deputy Bureau Chief in the Litigation Bureau of the Office of the New York State Attorney General, Eric T. Schneiderman.

COIB Chair Richard Briffault said, "I am delighted that Carolyn Miller will be our next Executive Director. She has the distinctive combination of experience, energy, intelligence, and passion to carry the work of the Board forward in the years ahead."

Carolyn Lisa Miller said, "After eight incredibly rewarding years as Director of Enforcement, I could not be any more pleased to return to the Conflicts of Interest Board as its Executive Director to work with its dedicated board and lead its exceptional staff. Over the course of my legal career, I have had the extraordinary benefit of working in some of the most important legal offices in the country -- the City's law department, the U.S. Attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York, and the New York State Attorney General's Office -- making this position at one of the nation's most respected ethics agencies both a tremendous honor and opportunity. I look forward to building upon and expanding the critical work of COIB in serving the public interest."

"Carolyn Miller is an outstanding lawyer and public servant who has served the people of New York well in my office and will make an excellent executive director of this vital agency," said **Attorney General Eric T. Schneiderman**. "I thank her for a job well done, and congratulate her on her continued service to New Yorkers."

Gene Russianoff of the New York Public Interest Research Group said, "Civic groups will have a close and productive relationship with Carolyn, who brings great knowledge and experience to her new position as the Executive Director of the Conflicts of Interest Board. Ms. Miller started her legal career as Rookie of the Year at the City's Law Department, and we look forward to her becoming a Hall of Famer at the COIB."

In addition to her public sector experience, Ms. Miller also practiced for two years from 2004 to 2006 at the law firm Willkie, Farr & Gallagher LLP, where, as a Senior Associate, she managed a range of complex, high-profile litigation that included work with municipal governments nationally and financial institutions. Even when in the private sector, Ms. Miller worked on public service matters, most notably as a member of the legal team at Willkie Farr that served as counsel to the Audit Committee for the City of San Diego, which was responsible for investigating and reporting on deficiencies by the San Diego City government in protecting the financial integrity of the City's pension system. That legal team was headed by Benito Romano, a former COIB Chair and United States Attorney, who originally recommended that Ms. Miller be considered for a position at the Board.

Ms. Miller is a dedicated member of the Bar outside of her official duties. She has provided pro bono legal services and volunteers for New Yorkers in need on numerous occasions, whether serving as counsel in Family Court for victims of domestic violence, acting as a "personal shopper" for low income women reentering the job market, preparing tax returns for low income residents, or providing basic computer training for adults living in supportive housing.

Ms. Miller begins as the Board's Executive Director on February 22, 2016.

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About COIB

The Conflicts of Interest Board is the independent, non-mayoral City agency charged with interpreting, administering, and enforcing the City's Conflicts of Interest Law, Annual Disclosure Law, and Lobbyist Gift Law. The Board is composed of five members, appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the City Council.

The Board's jurisdiction extends to all City agencies and current and former officers, elected officials, and employees of the City, as well as lobbyists.

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