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Shumaker Names New Attorney Development Officer

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (September 28, 2022, 4:11 PM EDT) -- Shumaker, Loop & Kendrick LLP has announced that a veteran Ohio-based attorney with over two decades working medical malpractice matters has been named its first attorney development officer, focused on guiding associates as they ascend the career ladder.

Kristen Connelly joined Shumaker earlier this month after a period away from practicing law. She told Law360 Pulse Wednesday that she originally planned on joining Shumaker as a traditional attorney before being approached to take up the attorney development job.

"As we talked about my return to the practice, it kind of evolved into taking on this position that they felt there was a need for," she said. "It came up in conversation, and through our discussions, I ended up feeling like it would be a good fit for me. I think my experience coupled with my interest in people and working with associates were the two reasons they thought I'd be a good fit for this position."



Kristen Connelly

Connelly said that her precise role was still evolving, but at the moment, she said, she is working with the associates in the Ohio offices to help them move into partnership in areas such as training, mentoring and evaluations, along with helping them foster relationships with the firm's partners and the communities they work in.

"This is the trend that most national firms are going in," she said. "The profession as a whole has recognized that there's value in this type of development role. I think they felt that I would be a good fit for this role because I have over 20 years experience practicing law and I've lived the need to have billable hours and measure my day in increments, so I've walked this walk that the associates are going through at Shumaker."

According to the firm's announcement, Connelly will also work on recruitment, development, and advancement of lawyers at all levels.

"Kristen's vast experience as an attorney paired with her magnetic personality make her absolutely perfect for this position," Sharon Fulop, a partner and a member of the firm's management committee, said in a statement. "She has a natural ability to connect with individuals, and she will have the freedom to make her mark as she assists us in developing and retaining top-notch talent."

Connelly said keys for associates to achieve a successful promotion push include enjoying their work and their colleagues as part of figuring out which practice area is best for them.

"In a firm the size of Shumaker, I think the associates can find their place, and I think the firm is committed to working with them to help transition into a spot at the firm where they feel comfortable and successful," she said.

Connelly, who graduated from the University of Toledo College of Law, brings experience representing hospitals, physicians, care providers and other medical providers mostly on professional negligence claims, along with experience representing health care professionals before Ohio's medical boards.

--Editing to Peter Rozovsky.

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