

Sherin And Lodgen Elects First Female Managing Partner

By Rachel Scharf

Law360 (November 1, 2021, 5:04 PM EDT) -- Sherin and Lodgen LLP has unanimously elected litigation chair Sara Jane Shanahan as its next managing partner, giving the top job to a woman for the first time in the Boston law firm's 76-year history.

Shanahan, who has been a partner at Sherin and Lodgen since 2008 and head of the litigation department since 2015, succeeds real estate partner Douglas M. Henry as managing partner of the 46-attorney firm. In an interview with Law360 on Monday, Shanahan said she's thrilled to be chosen for the role.



Sara Jane Shanahan

"For any lawyer to become the managing partner of their firm is really a lovely vote of confidence from your fellow partners," Shanahan said. "I have so enjoyed working at Sherin and Lodgen for the last 13 years that it's exciting for me to have the opportunity to serve as the managing partner going forward."

Shanahan emphasized that she's now one of many women managing partners in Boston — a city she's called home since her teenage years and where she's spent her entire legal career.

"I think Boston has been a great city for me and other women to practice in over the years, and I'm excited to join the ranks of that group and to hopefully promote women in the practice in general," Shanahan said.

As she takes the helm of Sherin and Lodgen, Shanahan said she hopes to keep the firm at its current size while continuing to build out diverse areas of expertise.

The firm, characterized by large real estate and litigation departments, has made a push in recent years to grow its renewable energy, employment and hospitality practices, according to Shanahan.

"It's my hope that we will continue to be a further diversified practice, and that we'll continue to deliver the high-level service to our clients that we're known for," she said.

On top of overseeing Sherin and Lodgen's daily and strategic operations, Shanahan will continue to represent clients in complex business litigation and insurance coverage disputes.

She's no stranger to balancing leadership roles and case work, having spent the last six years as both

litigation department head and a member of the firm's management committee.

"First and foremost I'm a lawyer," Shanahan said. "I've wanted to be a lawyer since I was 8 years old, and I don't have any intention of giving that up."

Shanahan received her law degree from Harvard Law School and clerked for U.S. District Judge Nathaniel M. Gorton in Boston after graduation.

She practiced at Hale and Dorr LLP — which later merged with Wilmer Cutler & Pickering LLP to form WilmerHale — and Griesinger Tighe & Maffei LLP before joining Sherin and Lodgen.

--Editing by Marygrace Murphy.

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