

PressRelease

Mayor Appoints New Assistant City Attorney

Milford, CT, June 11, 2010: Mayor James L. Richetelli, Jr. today announced the appointment of an experienced private practitioner and litigator, Debra S. Kelly, as Assistant City Attorney.

“We are excited that Attorney Kelly has accepted this opportunity,” Mayor Richetelli said, noting that the appointment caps an extensive search that attracted resumes from applicants across the country. Attorney Kelly begins working for the City on June 28, 2010.

Mayor Richetelli described Attorney Kelly as a “seasoned attorney, who has built a successful law practice in her Trumbull firm, Kelly & Norris, LLC.” The Mayor said that Attorney Kelly plans to leave her private practice and transition her pending cases to other attorneys, in order to fulfill the requirements of her new, full-time position with the City.

Prior to opening her own firm in 2001, Attorney Kelly was a litigation associate for Diserio Martin O'Connor & Castiglioni, LLP, of Stamford.

Attorney Kelly is a 1997 graduate of the Quinnipiac University School of Law, where she was ranked in the top 20% of her class. She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science and Spanish from Villanova University, and participated in the University's International Studies Program in Valencia, Spain.

“While Attorney Kelly clearly distinguished herself as our first choice, our nationwide search yielded many qualified candidates,” Mayor Richetelli said.

“We received 72 resumes from as far away as San Diego.”

The Mayor explained that the large field of applicants was pared to 11 by a selection panel of prominent attorneys – Christine Gonillo, Lewis Hurwitz, George J. Martelon, Jr. and Margarita Hartley Moore. The panelists volunteered their time to review resumes, interview the top 11 candidates, and further narrow the field to four finalists, whom they referred to the Mayor for a second interview.

The Mayor interviewed three of the four finalists, after one person withdrew their application before the last interview. “I had the pleasure of interviewing three extremely qualified candidates, thanks in no small part to the conscientious work of our selection panel. Our interviews included very frank discussions about the nature of the position and the challenges of municipal work.”

Attorney Kelly said she is “pleased and honored that I have been selected for this challenging position.” A Milford native, Attorney Kelly lives in Fairfield with her husband and two children.

The salary for the Assistant City Attorney, as adopted in the Board of Aldermen 2010-11 budget, is \$80,238.