

Former Chief Prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Joins Institutional Response Group

Tuesday, February 27, 2018

Philadelphia – February 27, 2018 – Cozen O'Connor is pleased to announce Michael J. Stackow – a long-time prosecutor with the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office – has joined its Institutional Response Group (IRG) as counsel. Working out of the firm's Philadelphia office, Stackow will conduct investigations into child abuse, sexual and gender-based harassment, interpersonal violence, elder abuse, and other forms of discrimination and harassment.

Stackow will also counsel K-12, higher education and other institutional clients; provide training and education for investigators and adjudicators; and help the firm's institutional clients audit and develop coordinated policies to meet Title IX, Clery, child protection and other regulatory requirements.

"Mike brings us decades of experience conducting high-profile investigations involving the most difficult and complex institutional issues, including sexual and gender-based harassment and violence, child abuse and other forms of misconduct," says Gina Maisto Smith, chair of the IRG. "Mike's experience, subject matter expertise, and credibility in the field will give institutional clients a high degree of trust and confidence as they implement effective prevention, investigation and resolution processes and policies. We are thrilled to add Mike to our team," adds Leslie M. Gomez, vice chair of the IRG.

Stackow served as a prosecutor for nearly 20 years, first at the Berks County District Attorney's Office, where he supervised the Juvenile Division. He joined the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office in 2003 and spent more than a decade investigating and prosecuting child abuse, sexual violence, intimate partner violence and elder abuse cases. He also served as assistant chief of the Family Violence & Sexual Assault Unit; chief of the Juvenile Court Unit; and most recently chief of the Municipal Court Unit.

In response to his commitment to the prevention and prosecution of child abuse, Stackow received the Team Excellence Award from the Philadelphia Children's Alliance in 2015. Because of Mike's insight and experience, he was called upon to testify at the public hearings held by the New York State Assembly Committee on Codes advocating for the passage of the Child Victims Act of New York. Mike was also instrumental in developing protocols for a human trafficking court in the Family Court of Philadelphia, which helped divert minors at risk of being trafficked from criminal prosecution.

Stackow earned his law degree from Temple University Beasley School of Law and his undergraduate degree from Dickinson College.

Cozen O'Connor's IRG represents colleges, universities, K-12 educational and other child-serving institutions, as well as corporations, hospitals, religious institutions, and not-for-profit organizations in connection with policy, compliance, investigations and governance issues. The group's attorneys have been at the helm of high-profile investigations and engagements at major public and private educational institutions, including both secular and religious institutions, throughout the country. In addition, members of the group have a long-standing investigative practice in the white collar, government and regulatory, and pharmaceutical arenas.

About Cozen O'Connor

Established in 1970, Cozen O'Connor has more than 750 attorneys who help clients manage risk and

Related Practice Areas

- Institutional Response Group

make better business decisions. The firm counsels clients on their most sophisticated legal matters in all areas of the law, including litigation, corporate, and regulatory law. Representing a broad array of leading global corporations and middle market companies, Cozen O'Connor services its clients' needs through 31 offices across two continents.

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