
Hughes Hubbard & Reed

Hughes Hubbard Promotes Two to Partnership and Four to Counsel

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New York, January 6, 2015 — Hughes Hubbard & Reed is pleased to announce that effective January 1, 2015 James H. Boykin and Melissa L. Duffy have been promoted to the partnership. The firm also elevated Steven S. (“Shep”) DiCesare, Erin E. DeCecchis, Christopher J. Fickes and Cecily C. Williams to counsel.

Boykin and Duffy, both resident in the firm’s Washington, DC office, practice in international arbitration and international trade, respectively. DiCesare and Williams are litigators in the firm’s New York office, DeCecchis is a member of the employee benefits and executive compensation practice in New York and Fickes is a member of the corporate and equipment finance practice in the firm’s Washington, DC office.

“The young lawyers joining the ranks of our partners and counsel this year represent the best of the best in dispute resolution, international trade and corporate attorneys,” said Candace K. Beinecke, Chair of Hughes Hubbard. “Many of these lawyers began their tenure at Hughes Hubbard as summer associates and two started their careers at the firm as paraprofessionals before law school. This speaks to the collegial culture that we cherish at our firm, which helps us to attract and retain quality lawyers who work on our clients’ sophisticated matters.”

New Partners

Boykin is an award-winning international arbitration lawyer. In 2014, he assisted a Turkish company in bringing to a successful resolution its dispute with the Republic of Kazakhstan over hundreds of millions of dollars, among other representations. He is an alumnus of the University of Virginia and he earned his J.D. from the College of William and Mary.

Duffy focuses her international trade practice on export controls, trade sanctions, and anti-boycott laws and regulations. She recently conducted a year-long trade compliance investigation for a global tech company, involving a Commerce Department subpoena and a federal criminal inquiry, concerning the company’s Middle

East operations and sanctions compliance. She graduated with honors from Principia College and she earned her J.D. cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center.

New Counsel

DiCesare practices in the Litigation Department in the New York office. He began his career at Hughes Hubbard as a docket clerk in 1998. In 2000, he left Hughes Hubbard to attend law school. After serving as a summer associate with the firm, DiCesare joined the firm as an associate in September 2003. He earned his J.D. from Fordham Law School and he graduated magna cum laude in cursu honorum, Phi Beta Kappa from Fordham in 1998. He is on the board of Urban Pathways, Inc. where he serves on the Nominating Committee and is Chair of the Personnel Committee.

DeCecchis, a member of the Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation Practice in New York, started at Hughes Hubbard as a summer associate before joining the firm in September 2003 as an associate. She earned her J.D. from Boston College Law School and she graduated from Cornell University in 1999.

Fickes, a member of the Corporate Department whose practice focuses on commercial aircraft finance, joined the firm's Washington, DC office in July 2010. He earned his J.D. magna cum laude from Hofstra University. He is a 1998 graduate of American University. Fickes was recognized as Rising Star by Airfinance Journal in 2013.

Williams is a litigator based in the firm's New York office. She began her tenure at Hughes Hubbard as a summer associate before joining the firm as an associate in October 2002. Williams graduated from the University of Virginia in 1995, and served in the Clinton White House following college, including as Special Assistant to the President and Deputy Director of Presidential Scheduling. She received her J.D. from the University Michigan Law School in 2002. Williams sits on the Boards of MFY Legal Services, Inc., and of EngenderHealth, for which she has served as Interim Chair of the Executive Committee.

Related People



James H. Boykin



Steven Sheppard DiCesare



Erin E. DeCecchis