

Top Atty From Ill. AG's Office Joins Massey & Gail

By **Celeste Bott**

Law360 (April 24, 2019, 2:33 PM EDT) -- Massey & Gail LLP has hired the former head of the Illinois attorney general's Public Interest Division, a job that involved overseeing investigations and cases involving the False Claims Act, consumer fraud and compliance with state and federal law, the firm announced Wednesday.

Cara Hendrickson has joined Massey & Gail's Chicago office as a partner after more than five years on the senior leadership team for former Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and current Illinois Attorney General Kwame Raoul. Her role included supervising more than 60 attorneys and staffers in seven bureaus: antitrust, civil rights, disability rights, public utilities, special litigation, tobacco enforcement and workplace rights, according to the firm.



Cara Hendrickson

In an interview with Law360 on Wednesday, Hendrickson said she was drawn to both the "smart, sophisticated lawyers" at Massey & Gail and the size of the firm, which provides more flexibility and the chance to continue the diversity of practice she had working for the state.

"I do really enjoy doing a lot of complex work," Hendrickson said. "I like getting my hands dirty, and this firm will allow me to do that."

Some of that complex work has involved overseeing a lot of Illinois' federal executive docket, working on cases Illinois and other states have filed against the federal government and extensive time spent on utility and energy matters, Hendrickson said.

Her experience includes leading a team that filed a lawsuit against the city of Chicago seeking reform of its police department. After many months of negotiation and litigation, a consent decree was adopted earlier this year, Hendrickson said.

She supervised an investigation into People's Gas over alleged violations of the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Practices Act, which led to a settlement of more than \$18 million for the state's utility customers, according to the firm.

Hendrickson was also involved in the attorney general's lawsuit against the Suburban Express charter bus company, alleging discrimination and harassment of its customers. The company eventually agreed to a consent decree requiring three years of monitoring, a fine of \$100,000 and refunds to certain

consumers, according to the attorney general's office.

"Cara Hendrickson is one of the most brilliant lawyers I've ever worked with. Her leadership, dedication and intelligence were vital to reaching a consent decree governing Chicago police reform," former Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan said in a statement.

Before working for the state, Hendrickson was a partner at Hughes Socol Piers Resnick & Dym Ltd. in Chicago, where she split her time between constitutional rights and commercial practice, she said.

Her work there included litigation on behalf of the bankruptcy trustee for the failed Emerald Casino, which resulted in a judgment of more than \$200 million, she said. Hendrickson also worked on civil rights cases throughout the country, citing a case in which she represented residents of a Nashville apartment building raided by immigration officials.

"Cara Hendrickson could have chosen to join just about any law firm of substance and would have been considered a significant addition. We are thrilled that she is bringing her tremendous talent to Massey & Gail and to our clients," Leonard A. Gail, the firm's co-founder, said in a statement Wednesday.

Hendrickson received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her law degree from Harvard University.

Massey & Gail is a 20-lawyer firm with offices in Chicago, San Francisco and Washington, D.C., according to the firm.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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