Squirrel Hill Resident Hal D. Coffey Takes Over as President of Allegheny County Bar Association

Coffey Practices Real Estate Law with Pittsburgh Firm Blumling & Gusky

PITTSBURGH – Attorney Hal D. Coffey has been elected the 109th President of the Allegheny County Bar Association. His one-year term officially began July 1 and will end on June 30, 2018.

“Throughout my working life, I have held numerous titles: waiter, tennis instructor, newspaper reporter and commercial real estate attorney, to name just a few,” Coffey said. “Now, I can add ‘Allegheny County Bar Association president’ to that list. To say that title is an honor would be a massive understatement.”

Coffey is an attorney with downtown Pittsburgh-based law firm Blumling & Gusky, where he works in the firm’s real estate practice group. He was elected President-Elect of the 6,000-member ACBA in 2016 and served in that capacity for the past year. He replaces Melaine Shannon Rothey, who completed her term June 30.

“Hal is going to be an excellent president,” Rothey said. “He is passionate about our profession, highly energetic and his integrity is second to none. I am looking forward to watching as he makes the ACBA an even better resource for those lawyers practicing in Allegheny County.”

Coffey said that some of his primary goals for his term as President are promoting diversity within the legal profession, encouraging attorneys to speak out against unethical behavior within the profession and facilitating ways Pittsburgh-area attorneys can engage in pro bono work to help those with low incomes have equal access to the legal system.

Another of his primary goals is to make the ACBA an even greater resource for attorneys throughout Allegheny County, not only those working at downtown firms.

“We’re launching a ‘Coffee with Coffey’ series, where we will go out into the suburbs and bring the ACBA to attorneys in the communities where they live and work,” he said. “Networking is vital to succeeding in the legal profession. During my term as President, I hope to encourage networking and civility between all Pittsburgh-area attorneys: those who at the big downtown law firms, those who work in-house at area corporations, those who work as solo practitioners in the suburbs and everyone in between.”

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About Hal Coffey

A Monroeville native, Coffey obtained a dual bachelor of arts in journalism and political science from the Pennsylvania State University in 1996 and his juris doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 2000.

Prior to working as a lawyer, Coffey worked as a sports reporter at newspapers in Lynchburg, Va., and in Pittsburgh. Early in his legal career, Coffey practiced family law at Pittsburgh firm Frank, Bails, Murcko, Toal & Bernstein and practiced general litigation, creditor collections, criminal defense and unemployment compensation law as a solo practitioner. He began to focus his practice in real estate law in 2002 when he joined Pepper Hamilton and continued to expand his expertise in that area of the law at positions with Grogan Graffam and Sitko Bruno.

Coffey joined his current firm, Blumling & Gusky, in June 2013. He concentrates his practice in all aspects of commercial real estate, including acquisition, disposition, leasing, financing, land use and zoning. His practice has a particular emphasis on retail, affordable housing and office real estate matters. In addition to his real estate work, Coffey also practices business and corporate law. Coffey is admitted to practice law in Pennsylvania and Ohio and before the United States District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania.

Coffey has been very involved in numerous facets of the ACBA since the beginning of his legal career. He has served as Chair of the Diversity Collaborative Committee, Chair of the Young Lawyers Division, Editor-in-Chief of the Lawyers Journal and the Pittsburgh Legal Journal Opinions and a member of the Real Property Section Council and Women in the Law Division Council. He also is a member of the Bench-Bar Conference Committee, Committee on Exempt Organizations, Diversity and Gender Equality Ad Hoc Committee, Membership Committee and Publications Committee. Coffey also is involved in the Allegheny County Bar Foundation, where he is a Fellow. He also provides pro bono representation to indigent clients seeking protection from abuse orders through the Neighborhood Legal Services Association.

In addition to his legal work, Coffey has been involved in an array of community and charitable endeavors. He served as Chair of the Josh Gibson Foundation, he currently serves as a volunteer coach for the Squirrel Hill Baseball Association and is actively involved in the Rodef Shalom Congregation in Oakland. Coffey and his wife, Erica, live in Squirrel Hill with their 9-year-old twins, Zachary Jacob and Eli Benjamin.

Additional New Officers

In addition to Coffey serving as President, the Allegheny County Bar Association also announced the following officers for 2017-18: Bryan S. Neft will serve as President-Elect, Melaine Shannon Rothey will serve as Immediate Past-President, Nicola Henry-Taylor will serve as Secretary, and James R. Mall will serve as Treasurer.

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About the ACBA

Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with more than 6,100 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators, and paralegals.

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