

MoFo Names New Partner To Co-Lead Investment Group

By **Emily Lever**

Law360 (August 4, 2022, 2:23 PM EDT) -- Morrison Foerster has promoted a corporate attorney with a growing cryptocurrency practice to partner and named her co-chair of its investment management group, the firm announced Thursday.

Kelley Howes, who has served as counsel at the firm for 10 years following two decades of in-house roles at capital management companies, became a partner effective Sunday, adding to the firm's new partner class, announced in January. She previously was vice-chair of, and will now co-chair, the investment management group with Derek Steingarten, who transferred laterally from K&L Gates LLP in July.



Kelley Howes

"Kelley's promotion highlights the continued momentum of the firm's corporate group, following the addition of nine partners since the start of the year and the election of nine corporate lawyers to the partnership in January and April," Eric McCrath, MoFo's global co-chair of the firm's corporate practice, said in a statement.

Howes, based in the firm's Denver office, arrived at MoFo in 2012 from the Janus Capital Group, which subsequently merged with the Henderson Group in 2017, becoming Janus Henderson. Howes had held multiple positions at the asset management company and its subsidiaries after joining it in 1994, with her most recent position being general counsel of the Janus Capital Group.

She specializes in representing investment companies, including real estate investment trusts and private funds, and advisers and broker-dealers, according to an online bio. She gives legal advice on regulations, compliance and governance, as well as mergers and reorganizations of funds. More recently, she has taken on blockchain and cryptocurrency companies as clients, an area MoFo says it wants to capitalize on.

"We're continuing to see increasing demand from funds clients for experience at the intersection of managing money and the law," MoFo managing partner Eric Piesner said in a statement. "Kelley's election to the partnership, combined with Derek's recent addition, further invigorates our investment management practice and is a critical step in the expansion of our capabilities in this important area."

"Kelley's focus on crypto, together with her invaluable commercial perspective gained in-house, position

us well to serve the industry's rapidly changing needs, including those driven by blockchain and digital securities," he added.

Howes holds a law degree from the Suffolk University School of Law in Boston. She is admitted to practice in Colorado as well as New York and Massachusetts.

Howes and the firm were not immediately available Thursday for further comment.

--Editing by Karin Roberts.