

## The Legal Intelligencer

# After Nelson Mullins Raid, Porter Wright Names New Pittsburgh Leadership

By Amanda O'Brien

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### What You Need to Know

- Porter Wright promoted Kristen Del Sole and John McIntyre to co-manage the firm's Pittsburgh office.
- The move comes after previous Pittsburgh office managing partner Tim Gallagher left for Nelson Mullins as part of a 12-partner team.
- The firm will be focusing on collaboration across its offices as part of its future strategy.

Porter Wright Morris & Arthur has announced the promotion of two new co-managing partners for the firm's Pittsburgh office, after losing 12 attorneys earlier this month—including past office managing partner Tim Gallagher—to Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough.

Both Kristen Del Sole and John McIntyre joined the Columbus, Ohio-based firm in 2021, with Del Sole joining from K&L Gates after 25 years and McIntyre leaving Reed Smith after nearly 20 years.

In spite of the recent departures, Porter Wright managing partner Bob Tannous feels



Courtesy photos

(L-R) John McIntyre and Kristen Del Sole, the two new co-managers of Porter Wright's Pittsburgh office.

confident in the direction of the firm in Western Pennsylvania.

"From our standpoint, this is a good evolution for us and we feel like we've got the right people in the seat to lead the office," he said in an interview. "We're really excited about the direction we're going, the approach that we're taking."

Both Del Sole and McIntyre are litigators, with McIntyre specializing in trial work

with experience defending financial services companies in class action suits and breach-of-contract disputes, while Del Sole works specifically on probate, estate, and trust litigation.

As of late, McIntyre has taken on several high-profile cases, including the largest case of its kind involving \$175 million worth of research tax credits against the federal government on behalf of a life sciences company. The case consumed nearly 14 years of litigation, and the firm is still working through implementation of the settlement.

With McIntyre and Del Sole at the helm, Porter Wright's Pittsburgh office is looking to perfect its collaborative structure. "One of the things we talked about doing was sitting down with all the lawyers in offices and making sure everyone understands the others' practices," said McIntyre. In doing this, the firm is hoping to better match clients with "the best person for what they need."

This collaborative strategy will not apply singularly to Pittsburgh. "That's something we're doing across the firm," McIntyre said.

Nor, according to Tannous, is McIntyre and Del Sole's new role strictly limited to their office. The pair are "going to be important across the firm," acting as leaders within the entirety of Porter Wright, said Tannous.

Regardless of the expanse of their new role, Del Sole said that "we're just really excited to put our touch on management, on what we've seen and what we've liked."

"This gives us the best platform and opportunity to do so," she added.

The pair are also looking forward to mentoring the next generation of the firm, whether it's helping lawyers develop new skills in the courtroom or teaching them more effective ways to interact with clients.

Regarding the exit of their former colleagues, who launched a new Nelson Mullins office in Pittsburgh, McIntyre noted that "people move around more often than they used to."

Tannous, meanwhile, stated that "we're comfortable with the folks that have stayed with their office and their commitment to the firm and their commitment to Porter Wright," even as Pittsburgh's market remains "very competitive."

"The competition for legal talent is something that everyone in this market is going to have to deal with," said McIntyre.

Del Sole agreed, but felt the firm was prepared to handle the challenge of recruiting and retaining talent. "I think we can do it, I think we've shown who we are as a firm and as people," she said. "Our challenges won't be new to Porter Wright."