

Employment Atty Rejoins Choate Hall After Stint At Littler

By Kevin Penton

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An employment attorney with a specialty in whistleblowing and retaliation who left Choate Hall & Stewart LLP for Littler Mendelson PC has returned to the firm.

Gregory Keating will chair Choate's labor, employment and benefits groups in Boston, where he will be responsible for handling matters arising under the growing array of state and federal statutes that provide whistleblower protections, including the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, the Dodd-Frank Act, the False Claims Act and the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, according to his new firm, which announced his hire on Sept. 9..

With stepped-up government enforcement by the U.S. Department of Labor and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and broader political support for increased whistleblower protections, Choate expects the field to remain active in the near future.

"We are delighted to welcome Greg back to the firm," said Choate Co-Managing Partner Charles Cheever in a statement. "His reputation as a leader representing companies on the firing line in whistleblower and retaliation cases is well-deserved. The combined strength of Choate's government investigation team and Greg's years of experience makes us a premier firm to handle this kind of high-stakes work."

Keating is currently serving his second two-year term as a management representative on the DOL's Whistleblower Protection Advisory Committee. In the spring of 2014, Keating testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions on the need for clear guidelines around the hallmarks of an effective compliance program. He subsequently helped to draft such guidelines as part of the Best Practices Working Group established by the WPAC, according to Choate.

"In recent years while at Littler, I have successfully teamed up with Choate on several high-profile national and international investigations," said Keating in a statement. "With the significant increase in the government's focus on the health care and financial sectors, there is a real need for the deep experience that our team offers."



Gregory Keating

While serving as a shareholder at Littler, Keating founded the firm's Boston practice in 2004, served two terms on its board of directors and was co-chair of its whistleblowing and retaliation practice group.

Keating also represents clients on employment issues in the retail and health care industries and in higher education, focusing on discrimination, harassment, noncompetition and other post-employment restrictions and contract- and tort-based claims.

Keating, a former sixth grade teacher, received his law degree from Boston College Law School and serves on the board of advisers to the National Employment Law Institute.

"Greg adds tremendous depth and experience to our group, rounding out our capabilities in a way few firms can match," said Jack Cinquegrana, co-chair of Choate's government enforcement and compliance practice group, in a statement.

--Editing by Stephen Berg.

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