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Local partner to co-lead Jenner's SCOTUS group

Current chair exiting firm to take teaching, activism jobs in D.C.

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Chicago attorney Michael T. Brody is one of three Jenner & Block LLP partners named to co-chair the firm's appellate and Supreme Court practice after the firm's current chair has decided to leave the firm.

Brody — a past president of the 7th Circuit Bar Association — will oversee the firm's high court practice along with two Washington, D.C.-based partners, Matthew S. Hellman and Jessica Ring Amunson.

The firm announced today that the three partners have been appointed to the positions as the practice's former chair, Paul M. Smith, is leaving the firm. According to a news release from the firm, Smith, who has chaired the

appellate and Supreme Court practice for several years, is leaving Jenner & Block to teach at Georgetown University Law Center. He has also taken a position at the Campaign Legal Center, a Washington-based nonprofit that focuses on voting rights and campaign finance reform.

"There are big shoes to fill. Paul is a great lawyer and he really was instrumental in establishing the strength of our practice," Brody said.

Brody said he is looking forward to helping head up the firm's active appellate and Supreme Court practice, which has presented more than 100 arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Brody has been with the firm for 32 years, the entirety of which he's been involved in appellate work. He has argued cases before the 7th Circuit, the Illinois Appellate Court and the Illinois Supreme Court. He also teaches at the University of Chicago Law School, where he earned his law degree. Brody clerked for the late justice Antonin G. Scalia when Scalia was a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for



Michael T. Brody

the District of Columbia Circuit.

His term as 7th Circuit Bar Association president ran from 2015 into 2016.

He said it was a "privilege to be asked to serve" as a co-chair of the firm's appellate and Supreme Court practice.

"I'm looking forward to the opportunity to help lead this group and to continue our real commitment to excellence in this area," he said.

There are about 20 Jenner & Block attorneys across different offices in the practice group. Brody said that although the firm's Supreme Court work is highly visible, its work in state and federal appellate courts around the country is also active. The firm's move to name co-chairs across two offices is a recognition of the practice's broad regional reach, Brody said.

Brody said he also sees his new position as an opportunity to mentor some of the firm's attorneys in the same way he was mentored by Scalia and other figures at his firm.

"I was mentored by great lawyers," he said. "I'm now to the point where I can do some of that for our younger lawyers and we have a lot of great younger lawyers coming up in this practice group."

The group is preparing to argue four cases before the U.S. Supreme Court this term — *Elijah Manuel v. City of Joliet*, *Howell v. Howell*, *Honeycutt v. United States* and *Kokesh v. SEC* — as well as appeals around the country.