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Newsroom

Kogan Named to AG Transition Team

Bruce Kogan, Director of Mediation and a professor at RWU Law, has been named to the transition team of newly elected AG Peter Kilmartin, RWU Law '98.

From the Providence Journal, "[Kilmartin keeps top 3 Lynch administration lawyers](#)" by Tracy Breton, Journal Staff Writer:

PROVIDENCE, Nov. 19, 2010 — Peter F. Kilmartin [RWU Law '98], the state's newly elected attorney general, is going to retain the top three lawyers in Patrick C. Lynch's administration: Gerald Coyne, as deputy attorney general; James Lee, as head of the civil division; and Stacey P. Veroni, as chief of the criminal division.

It is unclear how many of Lynch's 231 staffers Kilmartin plans to retain. His spokesman, Brett Broesder, said that no decision had been made on any positions other than the top appointments Kilmartin announced Thursday. No one has offered resignations, Broesder said, "and we are in the process of asking people to apply for positions who are already there."

Kilmartin, a retired Pawtucket police officer and 20-year Democratic member of the General Assembly, has never worked in the attorney general's office. His decision to retain Lynch's top staffers will provide continuity in the office.

In a media release, **Kilmartin also announced a 12-member transition team** that will smooth the way for his inauguration in January. It will be headed by Edward Cooney, former head of the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce and current vice president and treasurer of Nortek. Several members of the transition team have had experience in the department; others are specialists in personnel, finance and criminal justice. They include former staffers in the attorney general's office, a former state auditor general and two former police officers.

They are: Ernest Almonte, the former state auditor general, who is a partner at DiSanto Priest & Co.; Donald Deignan, a former member of the Department of Attorney General, who works as a disability rights advocate; Angel Garcia, personnel director for the City of Pawtucket; Jamie Hainesworth, former Gloucester police chief and executive director for Mothers Against Drunk Driving; and Neil F.X. Kelly, a former Narragansett police officer and 18-year veteran of the attorney general's office with experience trying civil and criminal trials, who works at Decof & Decof.

Other members are: **Bruce Kogan, director of mediation and a professor at Roger Williams University School of Law**; Richard LeClerc, president and CEO of Gateway Healthcare, a regional mental-health and substance-abuse provider; attorney Leonard Lopes, former chief of staff to Lynch, who is senior counsel at Pannone Lopes Devereaux & West; **Stephanie Manzi, dean of criminology at Roger Williams University**; James Ryan, a partner at Partridge, Snow & Hahn and a specialist in white-collar defense who was chief of criminal division to former Attorneys General James E. O'Neil and Jeffrey B. Pine; Deborah Smith, director of municipal and external affairs for Governor Carcieri; and Sheri Sweitzer, who worked in the office of the U.S. president and is a board member for Phoenix Houses of New England, a provider of addiction treatment programs, and vice clerk of the board of overseers at Moses Brown School.

Cooney says the transition team is diverse and talented. "With the vast array of backgrounds and experience on this committee, I look forward to helping the attorney general-elect streamline and strengthen the office while bolstering its ability to serve Rhode Island families."

For full story, click [here](#).