

People in Business

Goldberg Heller & Antognoli
Welcome Cornfeld, Levy



Daniel Levy



Richard Cornfeld

Goldberg Heller & Antognoli welcome two new attorneys: Richard Cornfeld, as Of Counsel, and Daniel Levy. Before joining the firm, Cornfeld worked on behalf of consumers for over a decade, oftentimes collaborating with the attorneys of Goldenberg Heller & Antognoli. His work includes the \$24 million settlement with the St. Louis Rams that brought full compensation for Rams' Personal Seat License holders. He has been named to the National Trial Lawyers Top 100 and its Class Action Top 40. Cornfeld also received recognition as one of The Best Lawyers in America, Missouri Super Lawyers and is a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent® attorney. Outside of his work, he and his wife are active Jewish community members and have been honored by several organizations for their contributions.

Levy has experience working in private practice on cases involving consumer protection, class actions and employment law and has represented both plaintiffs and defendants in litigation. He has also worked as an Assistant Attorney General in both the Governmental Affairs and Litigation divisions of the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Levy has been selected as a "Rising Star" by Missouri Super Lawyers. The National Trial Lawyers has also recognized him as a Top 40 Under 40. Outside of practicing law, Levy is an avid tennis player and follower, having played on the national-championship team when earning his undergraduate degree from Washington University in St. Louis.

First Mid announces Hughes
As CMO, Deposit Officer



Laura Hughes

First Mid Bank & Trust recently welcomed Laura Hughes as their new Chief Marketing & Deposit Officer. Hughes will be responsible for leading First Mid's marketing and deposit strategy, as well as overseeing its performance, culture, and overall customer experience. With over 20 years of marketing and customer-focused experience in the banking and insurance industries, Hughes brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to her new role. She most recently served as Chief Marketing Officer at HTLF, Heartland Financial, Inc., which is a \$20 billion bank headquartered in Denver, Colo. Prior to that, she held executive positions as Digital Marketing Leader for Commercial Banking at JP Morgan Chase and Head

of Marketing for the Federal Reserve Bank's Financial Services Division. Hughes is a graduate of Northern Illinois University and holds a Master of Business Administration from Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management. She dedicates her time and talents to numerous volunteer organizations. Hughes has contributed her expertise as a board member for both the National Park Service Heritage Corridor and her local chamber of commerce. She's also a devoted volunteer for the U.S. Marine Corps' Toys for Tots program.

Crnkovich joins as attorney
At The Gori Law Firm



Kaitlyn Crnkovich

The Gori Law Firm recently announced the hiring of Kaitlyn Crnkovich as its newest attorney. Crnkovich joins the firm's asbestos litigation team, where she represents individuals or groups who have been affected by asbestos exposure. Prior to joining The Gori Law Firm, Crnkovich worked for a medical malpractice and personal injury law firm. She was also previously a prosecutor focusing on cases involving domestic violence and juvenile cases. During law school, she interned at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in their felony trial division.

Crnkovich received her juris doctorate from The University of Illinois Chicago School of Law in 2015. Before law school, she received a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Bradley University. Crnkovich also has her Master's in Business Administration from DePaul University in Chicago.

Williams joins Caritas as
Community Services ED



Teresa Williams

Caritas Family Solutions recently announced that Dr. Teresa Williams has joined the organization in the newly created position of Executive Director of Community Services. Dr. Williams joins the nonprofit with decades of experience in higher education leadership. She also has a background in managing budgets for large institutions, securing and writing federal grants and ensuring federal/state compliance. Williams will provide direct oversight of several Caritas' programs including Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA), Fox River Apartments, Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and Fontebella Maternity Home. She will also work to find new grant opportunities and funding sources that can support those programs.

Williams was formerly the Director of Grants and Federal Programs for the East St. Louis School District 189. She has held the position of Dean at Quincy University, Hampton University, Lock Haven University and Carroll College. Williams has further held leadership

positions at University of Richmond, Southwestern University, University of Richmond, Washington University and Western Governors University. She received her Master of Arts in Teaching at Webster University and her Ph.D. in Higher Education at St. Louis University. She received her Bachelor of Arts in African and Afro-American Studies at Washington University.

Greater St. Louis Inc. names
Kost as Chief BAO



Maggie Kost

Greater St. Louis, Inc. recently announced that Maggie Kost, who currently leads the Missouri Department of Economic Development, has been named its new Chief Business Attraction Officer. Joining Greater St. Louis, Inc., officially in late June, Kost will lead the organization's efforts to attract national and international businesses to St. Louis. Raised in Godfrey, Ill., Kost graduated from Seton Hall University, and previously served with AmeriCorps in the St. Louis Public Schools.

Kost brings over a decade of experience in economic development to the role. As the head of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Kost has served in the Cabinet of Missouri Governor Mike Parson, leading the agency responsible for attracting new capital investment and jobs to the state. At the Department of Economic Development, Kost oversaw the rollout of more than half a billion dollars in economic recovery funding and led teams working business attraction and expansion projects that generated over 13,000 new jobs and \$4.7 billion in private capital investment in Missouri, including American Foods Group and James Hardie.

McKendree's Frank
Sweeps faculty awards



Dr. Sara Frank

Dr. Sara (Trask) Frank, associate professor of communication at McKendree University, received McKendree University's 2023 William Norman Grandy Faculty Award, given by the Alumni Association. Frank accepted the surprise honor at the undergraduate commencement ceremonies held in May at the Lebanon, Ill., campus. She also gave the commencement speech during the two undergraduate ceremonies. The Grandy Award is given annually to recognize commitment to students and the ideals promoted by the university. The award is named for Dr. William Norman Grandy, who served from 1952 to 1968 as a professor of philosophy and religion, and as dean of students, academic dean and interim president. Dr. Frank is also the first McKendree faculty member to win all three prestigious awards – the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award, the United Methodist Exemplary Teacher of the Year Award, and the William Norman Grandy Faculty Award – in a single academic year.

She earned her undergraduate degree from McKendree in 2005 and has been teaching at her alma mater since 2018. Since then, she has been making a positive impact on the campus community. In addition to serving as an associate professor of communication, she is the Provost Fellow for Communication, a role in which she maintains the faculty excellence page and co-advises McK Media. A native of Jerseyville, Ill., Dr. Frank currently resides in Carlyle, Ill. She is a member of the National Communication Association and Phi Kappa Phi, and she is also the advisor of Lambda Pi Eta, the national communication honor society.

United Way STL name Felts
As Communications VP



Katie Felts

United Way of Greater St. Louis recently named Katie Felts as Vice President of Communications. In this role, Felts will use media relations and other communications strategies to shape and share the United Way story with our community. United Way of Greater St. Louis provides services and resources to communities across a 16-county region in Missouri and Illinois. For more than 18 years in broadcasting, Felts covered everything from high school to professional sports. In her 11 years with KSDK News Channel 5, she held multiple roles as a Sports Anchor, Reporter, and Managing Editor. Her expertise in communications led to three Emmy nominations, interviewing former First Lady Michelle Obama at the White House, and covering the Cardinals' World Series championship runs in 2006 and 2011. Additionally, Felts co-owned a lawn care company called Clean Air Lawn Care. She has also served as a board member of her church, The Gathering, as President of the Parents Association at City Academy, and is an alumnus of Focus St. Louis' Women in Leadership.

Christensen named Kaskaskia
College ED, Development



Michael Christensen

Kaskaskia College recently announced that it has hired Michael Christensen as its executive director of development. Christensen will be responsible for fundraising strategies and programs for the College and Kaskaskia College Foundation. He will be responsible for external stakeholder engagement, major and planned gifts. Christensen's previous experience as a Campaign and Major Gifts Officer includes recruiting, cultivating, soliciting and stewarding relationships with dozens of donors. He will use his previous experience to consult with current and prospective donors, acting as the liaison between the Foundation and Kaskaskia College. • Send People in Business items to Editor Melissa Crockett Meske, macmeske@ibjonline.com.