



Williams Mullen Welcomes Elizabeth Rafferty as Director of Government Relations

06.07.2018

Williams Mullen is pleased to announce that Elizabeth O. Rafferty has joined the firm as a director of government relations* in the Richmond office. Ms. Rafferty joins the firm's Government Relations practice after serving as the policy and legislative director for the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD).

She also served as an advisor for community development in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade under Governor Terry McAuliffe.

"Elizabeth brings a great deal of knowledge on how to work effectively to find solutions within Virginia's government," Government Relations practice chair Reggie Jones said. "We're thrilled to welcome her to our team, and we're confident she will be an asset helping clients achieve their legislative and regulatory goals."

As a director of government relations, Ms. Rafferty will assist businesses, associations and individuals before Virginia's legislative and executive branches of government, including state agencies and boards.** She joins a Government Relations practice that has decades of experience advocating at the state and local levels and is repeatedly rated by *Best Lawyers*[®] as a "Best Law Firm" for Government Relations in both Virginia and North Carolina.

While at Virginia DHCD, she was responsible for oversight of the agency's policy initiatives and legislative functions. In this role, she provided leadership for the launch of the GO Virginia economic development program. In the Office of the Secretary of Commerce and Trade, Ms. Rafferty oversaw four agencies — the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity, the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation, the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Virginia Housing Development Authority.

Ms. Rafferty earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in psychology from the College of William & Mary, and she earned a Master of Science degree in justice and public policy from American University.

*Non-attorney

** Elizabeth left her position in the Office of the Secretary of Commerce & Trade – where she worked directly with the Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), Virginia Housing

Development Authority (VHDA) and Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation (DPOR) – to return to her position at the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) on Jan. 12, 2018. She left her position with DHCD to join Williams Mullen on May 18, 2018. Pursuant to Va. Code Ann. § § 2.2-3104, Elizabeth may not appear before the DHCD, SBSB, VHDA or DPOR in a representative capacity regarding legislation, executive orders or regulations promulgated by either office for one year. She is not under any restriction to represent client interests before the General Assembly, any other Commerce and Trade agencies or any other agency under the Executive branch. Elizabeth will be eligible to appear before the SBSB, VHDA, and DPOR on Jan. 12, 2019 and the DHCD on May 18, 2019.

Related People

- Elizabeth O. Rafferty – 804.420.6245 – erafferty@williamsmullen.com

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