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Lumb takes managing role at Corboy & Demetrio

Replaces Bingle, who spent 23 years as plaintiff powerhouse's managing partner

BY SARAH MANSUR
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Corboy & Demetrio P.C. has a new managing partner for the first time in more than two decades: Kenneth T. Lumb.

The firm's last MP, Robert J. Bingle, stepped down from the role at the start of the year. He became the firm's first managing partner in 1995, and he will remain a partner there.

"I think he'll do a wonderful job," Bingle, 67, said of his successor. "I was honored to serve for 23 years. It was tremendous, and I loved it ... This is just a natural progression and transition."

In addition to daily organizational tasks like case management and scheduling activities, Bingle's time as managing partner was spent mentoring other attorneys, especially younger ones.

Lumb, 52, said he is honored to assume the mantle.

"It's a huge privilege, and I'm looking forward to carrying on Bob Bingle's great work," said Lumb, whose tenure was effective Jan. 1.

Lumb joined the firm as a summer law clerk in 1989 while enrolled at DePaul University College of Law, and he became an associate in 1995 following a tour of duty in the U.S. Army.

"It was kind of fortuitous because when I first started law school, in my first year, I fully intended on staying in the Army for at least several tours," Lumb said.

The clerkship changed those plans.

"I realized that was what I wanted to do. Had I not done that, I probably would have stayed in the Army."

After graduating law school in 1991, Lumb served as a captain in



Kenneth T. Lumb, the new managing partner at Corboy & Demetrio P.C., is pictured at his desk on Monday. The 52-year-old plaintiff's lawyer plans to continue with his practice in addition to the new responsibilities. Sarah Mansur

the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps for four years. During that time, he was the Medical Claims Judge Advocate at Walter Reed Army Medical Center outside Washington.

At Walter Reed, Lumb was the medical-malpractice defense and hospital law attorney and was responsible for defending military health-care providers. His experience with the plaintiff's firm during school played a part in the assignment.

"That was a direct result of me having worked here," Lumb said. "That was normally a job for a senior captain and someone who had been in several tours. But having had this experience, that's where I ended up."

At the time, Lumb also served as a special assistant U.S. attorney.

"Those are the only two places I've ever worked," Lumb said of the Army and Corboy &

Demetrio. "And, frankly, the only two places I've ever wanted to work."

Thomas A. Demetrio, the first of firm patriarch Phillip H. Corboy's proteges to become one of his partners in 1982, said Lumb's promotion is a way to "let lawyers coming up know that they are the future."

"This is more of an accolade, and letting Ken know that it has not gone unnoticed what he has done for this law firm since 1989," Demetrio said.

Lumb intends to continue his practice, though he recognizes that his managing partner duties will occupy plenty of his time.

He said he is looking forward to teaching the next generation of attorneys at Corboy & Demetrio.

"The thing that is most exciting to me is working with younger lawyers, passing along lessons learned, teaching them some of the things that we learned by hard

experience, trial and error," Lumb said.

Demetrio and Lumb co-author a regular column, "Med-Mal Matters," for Chicago Lawyer magazine, a sister publication to the Daily Law Bulletin.

Lumb said Bingle was always accessible and helpful to young lawyers, and anyone else seeking his advice.

"His mentorship of younger attorneys, including me, has always been something that I've admired and appreciated," Lumb said. "One of the things I would like to do is formalize that mentorship a little bit more and have those lessons distilled into writing or more formalized training sessions on certain types of topics."

When asked if he plans to serve for as long as his predecessor, Lumb laughed.

"I'm definitely not going anywhere."

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