

Kerry, Griffin Join Obama Team

ACCEPT KEY ROLES IN COMMERCE, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT

President Barack Obama has named one Boston College Law School alumnus to a federal government post and nominated a second one. Confirmed this past spring, Cameron Kerry '78 became general counsel for the US Commerce Department, and Christine M. Griffin '93 is expected to join the US Office of Personnel Management as its deputy director.

As the Commerce Department's chief legal officer, Kerry now oversees fourteen legal offices and supervises the development of the department's legislative and regulatory programs ranging from international trade and intellectual property and technology issues to climate science at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Previously, a communications lawyer and litigator at Mintz Levin Cohn Ferris Glovsky and Popeo, PC, Kerry

has spent the last three decades developing expertise in many of these same areas, including environmental law, privacy, insurance regulation, and toxic torts—in particular, lead-based paint and environmental clean-up liabilities. Always active in civic and political affairs, Kerry reduced his practice to become senior advisor and surrogate for his brother John's Democratic presidential campaign in 2003 and 2004.

Kerry has also represented the cable industry and other communications clients before federal and state courts, the Federal Communications Commission, state regulatory bodies, and municipalities, and from 1997 to 2002, he taught telecommunications law as an adjunct professor at Suffolk University Law School. "My communications practice was an outgrowth of my work at BC," Kerry said in a recent telephone interview. The executive

editor of the *Boston College Law Review* and winner of the Grimes Moot Court competition, Kerry spent his years as a law student "steeped in First Amendment issues," he said, experiences that propelled him toward representation of clients whose work is affected by the First Amendment.

Christine Griffin's path to the nomination to the Office of Personnel Management also began at BC Law, where an internship with a Boston lobbyist led her to study the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Awarded a Skadden Arps Fellowship at the Boston Disability Law Center upon graduation, Griffin went on to serve as the center's director from 1996 to 2005, building a distinguished record as a civil rights defender for people with disabilities.

Nominated later that year by President George W. Bush to the bipartisan Equal Employ-

ment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Griffin, who was partially paralyzed in a car accident in 1980, became the first female member of the commission with a physical disability. As one of five EEOC commissioners, Griffin helped develop regulations, policy, and guidance in the enforcement of the nation's employment discrimination laws (most notably, the LEAD Initiative—Leadership for the Employment of Americans with Disabilities—which addressed the significant under-employment of individuals with severe disabilities in the federal government).

If confirmed in her new position, Griffin will help oversee the human resources agenda for 1.9 million federal employees, crafting federal recruitment and hiring strategies to attract a diverse group of men and women to careers in civil service.

—Cara Feinberg

