

Day Pitney Taps Real Estate Leader as Next Managing Partner

By Vivienne Serret

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What You Need to Know

- Michael Byrne officially stepped into his new role of managing partner April 2.
- He succeeds Gregory A. Hayes, who is stepping down after three years in the role.

Day Pitney has announced that its partners have elected Michael P. Byrne as the new managing partner of the Am Law 200 firm, succeeding Gregory A. Hayes, who is stepping down after three years in the role.

Byrne officially took over leadership of the firm April 2, and he arrives with the goal of building on recent growth and recruiting talent in areas of strength.

“2025 was a record year for us, in terms of revenue growth, in terms of head count, in terms of reinvestment in the firm,” Byrne said in an interview. “We’ve completed several significant office moves, and we’re in the midst of doing several significant office renovations ... we’re looking to duplicate our success from last year again this year.”



Courtesy photo

Michael Byrne, managing partner of Day Pitney.

Since spring 2023, Day Pitney has added 40 partners, including 21 lateral hires and 19 partner promotions, deepening its presence in key markets, with significant expansion in Boston, Florida, New Jersey, and Washington, D.C., according to a news release.

Byrne has served on the firm’s executive committee for three years and was the chair of the firm’s real estate practice for more than 10 years. He is based in the firm’s Stamford, Connecticut, office.

As managing partner, Byrne plans to visit most, if not all, of the firm's offices and hear about the direction its partners want to take, and then spend several months working on the strategic direction of the firm, with the aim of setting very concrete goals for how and where it can grow.

He will also spend the early months of his tenure focused on technology and AI, making sure that the firm remains "ahead of the curve" and ahead of its peers with respect to new technology.

In addition to his leadership role, Byrne will continue his commercial real estate transactions practice, representing a broad range of clients on real estate finance transactions, acquisitions, dispositions, leasing, development, and joint ventures, according to a news release.

"We're very focused on continuing to grow in Florida, maintaining and expanding our leadership positions in the Connecticut market and the New Jersey market, and continuing the very significant growth we've

experienced in Boston in the past several years," he said Wednesday.

In addition to Byrne the firm made several other new leadership appointments. Hartford partner Sebastian M. Lombardi, formerly head of the firm's energy practice, will serve on the executive committee, joining current members Elizabeth A. Alquist and Byrne.

Hayes, the former managing partner, is also leaving the executive committee after eight years and will focus entirely on his private client practice.

Boston partner Jonathan S. Zelig will serve on the firm's executive board, succeeding Hartford partner Namita Tripathi Shah, who served three years on the board. Zelig joins current board members Tasha K. Dickinson from West Palm Beach, Florida, Joseph H. Fagan from Washington, D.C., Amy R. Lonergan from Boston, and Mark Salah Morgan from New Jersey/New York.

Washington, D.C., partner Valerie L. Green was named chair of the firm's energy practice, succeeding Lombardi.