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Robinson+Cole Expands Affordable Housing Finance Practice with Addition of Six Lawyers in Washington, DC

Firm welcomes partners Robert Kearbey, Nicholas Pirulli and Patrick Evatt

WASHINGTON, DC (December 6, 2023) – Robinson+Cole is pleased to announce the significant expansion of its [Affordable Housing Finance](#) practice with the addition of six lawyers and six professional staff team members from Washington, DC-area-based firm Kearbey Pirulli & Evatt LLC. The team includes [Robert Kearbey](#), [Nicholas Pirulli](#) and [Patrick Evatt](#), who will all join Robinson+Cole as partners.

"Adding Rob, Nick, Patrick and their team achieves multiple objectives in our strategic plan," said [Rhonda J. Tobin](#), Robinson+Cole's Managing Partner. "It builds upon one of our strongest practices, expands our presence in the Washington, DC area, creates deeper institutional relationships with our largest clients, and broadens our client base in a key practice area. We are thrilled to combine the talents of these two groups to serve our clients."

Kearbey, Pirulli and Evatt enhance Robinson+Cole's seven-partner Affordable Housing Finance team, including current practice co-chairs [Andrew Kramer](#) (New York) and [Debbie Gezon](#) (Southern California), along with [Matt Lawlor](#) (Boston), [Roger Peters](#) (Providence), [Candace Cunningham](#) (Hartford), [Michele Maresca](#) (Hartford), and [Krista Patterson](#) (New York), to form one of the country's largest teams representing banks and financial institutions financing affordable housing developments.

"We are singularly focused on servicing the affordable housing finance industry. The combination of our common and distinct client relationships and experiences will serve all of our clients well," said Andrew Kramer. "We know Rob, Nick and Patrick will thrive on Robinson+Cole's platform and we are committed to realizing this joint practice's great potential."

"We have known and worked with Andy Kramer, Debbie Gezon and their team for many years," said Kearbey. "We are thrilled to have the opportunity to join such a strong group and make it even more of an industry leader."

The six-lawyer team also includes [Sana Din](#) and [Jeffrey Weissmann](#), as counsel, and [Brian Murphy](#), as an associate, whose significant affordable housing finance experience complements the team.

The firm's Washington, DC office also recently welcomed former Skadden litigator [David Carney](#) as a partner in the firm's Business Litigation Group and former U.S. Department of Justice trial attorney [Sean Griffin](#) as a litigation

partner. Robinson+Cole opened the D.C. office last fall with a team of intellectual property professionals led by partner [William Bradley](#).

Kearbey's multifaceted experience representing lenders, borrowers, underwriters, bond issuers, developers, and others in commercial real estate provides a valuable perspective on multifamily housing finance. His creativity establishes ideal platforms for growth in the affordable housing market and services clients in developing and executing multidisciplinary financing transactions. Before joining Robinson+Cole, Kearbey managed Kearbey, Pirulli & Evatt LLC, where he led a team of real estate attorneys representing constituent lenders in the origination, purchase, securitization, and servicing of bonds and loans financing affordable housing projects. Previously, he served as in-house counsel for Freddie Mac's Targeted Affordable Housing team, and the Structured Specialty Products Platform. His insight was instrumental in helping design and implement numerous products, including the flagship Tax-Exempt Loan (TEL).

Pirulli's practice focuses on representing national lenders in commercial real estate financing transactions for affordable housing projects, including preservation transactions, short-term bonds, and acquisition/rehab transactions. His experience includes advising clients on conventional loan programs, MBS and capital market executions, construction, acquisition, and bridge financing. Previously, he acted as "single counsel" for various Freddie Mac products, including Tax Exempt Loans and TAH loans. He has also represented multiple lenders in closing loans under the Fannie Mae M.TEB product line.

Evatt has built a dynamic national real estate practice, representing institutional lenders in the financing of affordable housing projects utilizing federal low-income housing tax credits, tax-exempt obligations, and other publicly funded assistance programs. He led an affordable housing and community development law firm in the Pacific Northwest, before serving as an Associate General Counsel to Freddie Mac, providing legal support and counsel to Freddie Mac Multifamily's targeted affordable business, helping to develop credit policy and enhance product offerings. Throughout his expansive career, Evatt has served as bond counsel, issuer's counsel, disclosure counsel, underwriter's counsel, and borrower's counsel in a variety of tax-exempt and taxable financings for multifamily housing and community development. He practices from Austin, Texas.

In addition to growing its DC office, earlier this year the firm welcomed three new partners to its New York office, adding [Ze'ev Eiger](#) to the firm's Capital Markets + Securities team, [Jessica Rothman](#) to the Construction group and [E. Evans Wohlforth, Jr.](#) to the Managed Care Litigation practice. The firm further expanded its Managed Care Litigation team by adding [Adam Pettit](#) as a partner in Philadelphia. Each of the additions this year furthered the firm's strategic goal of growing in its larger commercial markets.

About Robinson+Cole

Robinson+Cole is an Am Law 200 law firm established over 178 years ago, with a deeply rooted culture of collaboration, civility, and inclusion. The firm is ranked #17 in the 2024 Vault Best Law Firms to Work For, a Mansfield Rule Certified Plus firm and has more than 250 lawyers in eleven offices throughout the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic,

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