

Orrick Nabs Ex-Microsoft Atty For Appellate Group

By **Michele Gorman**

Law360 (April 8, 2019, 6:50 PM EDT) -- Orrick has snagged Microsoft's former deputy general counsel and corporate secretary to join the law firm's Seattle office as senior counsel in its Supreme Court and appellate practice group, the firm announced Monday.

A seasoned litigation specialist, Carolyn Frantz told Law360 she had always enjoyed an appellate lawyer's ability "to sit and think deeply" to craft an argument, which is not typically part of an in-house counsel's varied responsibilities. She said her new role at Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP was appealing because of more predictable deadlines.



Carolyn Frantz

"I used to be jealous of the people I managed — that they would get to spend so much time looking into something and thinking about it," she said.

In her previous role as leader of Microsoft's corporate legal group, Frantz oversaw matters involving securities, compensation and benefits, real estate, procurement, treasury, accounting and finance, and internal audits.

Frantz had joined Microsoft Corp. in 2016 as associate general counsel for litigation, a role in which she was responsible for worldwide tax, patent licensing litigation and international consumer litigation.

Less than two years later, she was promoted to vice president and deputy general counsel. She added corporate secretary to her titles in January 2018, and in that role she worked closely with the board of directors and senior management.

At the tech giant, Frantz said she developed a deeper understanding of how in-house departments function and fit into a corporation overall, and learned how to manage employees.

Prior to joining Microsoft, she had represented the company when she practiced with litigation boutique Bartlit Beck Herman Palenchar & Scott LLP, where she worked for almost 11 years, including for seven as partner.

"I just absolutely loved the company as a client — still do love that company — just so hardworking and good-natured and functional," she said.

A Rhodes scholar, she was an associate professor at the University of Chicago Law School for nearly two years before joining Bartlit Beck.

Earlier in her career, Frantz had clerked for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor and U.S. Circuit Judge David S. Tatel of the D.C. Circuit.

She received her law degree from the University of Michigan Law School.

“Carolyn is a truly distinguished legal talent, and we are thrilled to add her to our team,” said Josh Rosenkranz, the firm’s appellate practice head. “This move is another step in building our unique constellation model and our diverse bi-coastal team.”

In January, Law360 named Orrick's practice as one of the 2018 Appellate Groups of the Year, in large part because of the team’s undefeated term at the high court. Among the group’s top achievements last year was swaying then-new Justice Neil Gorsuch’s deciding vote in an immigration case that nixed a tool used to place people in deportation proceedings.

--Additional reporting by Annie Pancak. Editing by Abbie Sarfo.