

Former State Bar Attorney Gorman to Head MTA's Office of Ethics, Lobby Registration



MTA Ethics Officer
Karen Gorman

(April 11) Karen Gorman, a former deputy trial counsel with the State Bar of California, has been named to head the MTA's Office of Ethics and Lobby Registration. The new Ethics Officer joins the agency May 1.

Gorman fills a position left vacant since January, 1999. The Ethics Office, with a staff of five professionals, consults with Board members, employees, lobbyist and others regarding the MTA Codes of Conduct and Lobby Registration Ordinance.

Counseled attorneys on ethics

As a deputy trial counsel for the State Bar beginning in 1990, Gorman prosecuted attorneys charged with violating the Rules of Professional Conduct. She also counseled attorneys on ethics, taught ethics, managed an attorney substance abuse program she created and negotiated discipline agreements. She supervised a staff of paralegals, investigators and clerks.

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During a recent hiatus from the State Bar, Gorman served for a year as an Auxiliary Legal Services attorney with the Los Angeles County Counsel's office, representing the Department of Children and Family Services in Dependency Court. She also counseled senior management on conflict of interest matters.

During the 1980s, Gorman was in-house counsel to MAI Basic Four. She managed operations, including corporate mergers and product procurements. She also was a member of the Contracts Administration Department of Motorola, Inc., where she drafted and negotiated large contracts with governments and Fortune 500 companies.

San Jose State graduate

Gorman is a 1976 graduate of San Jose State University, where she earned a bachelor of science degree in business. She is a 1979 graduate of the Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, where she earned her juris doctor degree.

She was admitted to the State Bar of California and Northern Federal District Court in 1979 and to practice before the U.S. Supreme court in 1991. She also is a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary and holds teaching credentials.

Gorman and her husband, Robert, a service manager and Cub Scout leader, live in Orange County with their 11 -year-old son, Clayton.

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