



Archer's Shelley Smith Tapped as Managing Partner of Philadelphia Office

Press Releases

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Former Philadelphia City Solicitor and veteran trial lawyer will lead Archer's Philadelphia office as the firm continues to strengthen its Pennsylvania-New Jersey platform

October 1, 2026 – Archer & Greiner P.C. ("Archer") has named **Shelley R. Smith** managing partner of its Philadelphia office, effective October 1. Smith brings to the role deep relationships across Philadelphia's legal, business and civic communities, as well as extensive experience in complex litigation, public-sector matters and firm leadership.

Smith joined Archer in 2016 after serving eight years as City Solicitor for the City of Philadelphia under Mayor Michael Nutter, the longest tenure of anyone to hold that office. As City Solicitor, she represented the mayor, City Council and every city agency, board and commission, giving her a unique perspective on both the city's institutions and the legal and business communities that surround them.

At Archer, Smith is a partner in the firm's Business Litigation and Labor and Employment groups, where she counsels clients on commercial disputes, workplace investigations and compliance, and civil rights and constitutional litigation. She also serves as Archer's Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer. A veteran trial lawyer, Smith has tried more than 60 federal civil jury trials to verdict and is a frequent speaker and writer on diversity and the post-2023 legal landscape surrounding affirmative action.

"Shelley knows Philadelphia in a way very few lawyers do," said **Marc Rollo**, president of Archer. "She brings an exceptional combination of trial experience, institutional knowledge and relationships across the city's legal, business and civic communities. She is an outstanding choice to lead our Philadelphia office as we continue to build an increasingly connected platform across Pennsylvania and New Jersey."

As managing partner, Smith will work with firm leadership to build on the strength of Archer's Philadelphia office and further connect its lawyers and clients with the resources and relationships of the firm's New Jersey offices. Her appointment comes as Archer continues to expand its capabilities across key practice areas and strengthen its bench of attorneys throughout the region.

“As a lifelong Philadelphian whose roots here go back to the 1700s, I care deeply about this city, and I’m excited to help lead Archer’s Philadelphia office at an important point in the firm’s growth,” said Smith. “Our clients’ needs don’t stop at the Delaware River, and neither do the talent and deep experience we can offer them. My goal is to build on the strength of this office while creating even more opportunities for our multidisciplinary lawyers to work together.”

Smith is an active participant in Philadelphia’s legal and civic communities. She has been a member of the boards of the Women’s Law Project and the Support Center for Child Advocates, is co-President of the Philadelphia Diverse Lawyers’ Group (“PDLG”) and previously chaired the Philadelphia Bar Association’s Commission on Judicial Selection and Retention.

Smith’s new role builds on months of deliberate leadership and succession planning at Archer. Last year, Archer **announced** that Rollo would succeed Christopher Gibson as firm president, effective January 1, 2026. Under Rollo’s leadership, the firm has strategically expanded several practice areas, including **Business Litigation, Corporate Compliance, Investigations & Criminal Defense** and **Sports & Entertainment**.

Smith succeeds **Patrick Doran**, who had served as managing partner of the Philadelphia office since 2023. Over the past year, Doran played a key role on Rollo’s transition team and now assumes a senior leadership position in his Cabinet.

“Pat has been an outstanding managing partner for the Philadelphia office, and I am grateful for the pivotal role he played in setting the office up for this next chapter,” Rollo said. “The firm benefits enormously from his continued hands-on involvement in shaping our direction and vision, and I am pleased he will bring that same commitment to his role as a senior member of my Cabinet.”

Archer recently **announced the appointment** of five new practice group leaders and new leadership for its New York and Delaware offices, also effective October 1. The appointments span key areas of the firm’s litigation, transactional and advisory work and reflect Archer’s continued investment in the leadership guiding its practices, offices and client teams.

About Archer

For over 95 years, **Archer & Greiner** has been providing full-service litigation and transactional legal services to clients ranging from Fortune 100 corporations and small and middle-market companies, to closely-held and family-owned businesses. Our 175 attorneys span nine offices serving clients’ interests across a wide range of industries. As a full-service firm, we draw on the strength of all our practices and multidisciplinary teams. This collaboration ensures that our clients receive complete, coordinated, and comprehensive counsel in every area of the law that impacts their business.



Related People



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