

February 5, 2020

To: The John Jay College Community

Re: New Leadership in the College's Office of Legal Counsel

I'm pleased to announce our new leadership in the Office of Legal Counsel. **Tony Balkissoon** has joined us as Vice President and Executive Counsel and **Jill Maxwell** has joined us in the role of Deputy Counsel.

Both Tony and Jill are experienced professionals with significant expertise in the public and private sectors. They will provide strategic advice and counsel to me and the College on a vast array of issues, including litigation and administrative actions, governance and faculty matters, regulatory compliance, collective bargaining agreement interpretation and compliance, and intellectual property issues.



Tony joins us most recently from the MacArthur Justice Center where he litigated civil rights and criminal justice cases in the Supreme Court and federal appellate courts. He previously litigated civil rights cases nationwide at a civil rights law firm, including cases securing multi-million-dollar jury verdicts for men who were wrongfully imprisoned for decades, and a settlement for a mother whose daughter died in a dilapidated Baltimore jail. He also brings experience litigating high-stakes intellectual property cases along with federal district and appellate clerkship experience. Tony graduated cum laude from Harvard Law School and earned a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in engineering science from the University of Toronto. Tony will also be responsible for leading

other Presidential initiatives, for example, our annual Smart on Crime Innovations conference. Tony is located in Haaren Hall 622.01.



Jill brings to this position over 15 years of professional experience working for the City of New York, for legal services organizations, the private sector, and as a federal district and appellate clerk. Most recently, Jill helped build New York City's new 45-person municipal labor office from its inception. As Legal and Policy Director of the Office of Labor Policy and Standards at the NYC Department of Consumer and Worker Protection, Jill oversaw an active litigation docket as well as alternative enforcement programs, led education, outreach, and engagement efforts, and developed regulations and City laws. Jill has also served as an adjunct professor at Fordham University School of Law and Brooklyn Law School. She graduated cum laude from Brooklyn Law School and earned

her bachelor's degree in sociology from Vassar College. Because of her strong policy and City regulatory background, Jill will also play a key role in supporting our external affairs work. Jill is located in Haaren Hall 625.



At the same time, after serving in the Office of Legal Counsel since 2016, **Eric Doering** will be transitioning to the Office for the Advancement of Research (OAR) as Research Contract & Compliance Associate. In this role, Eric will serve as a liaison between our faculty and the Research Foundation for our rapidly expanding research portfolio, assisting faculty and staff as they negotiate sub-awards, contracts, and the hiring of consultants on sponsored projects. Working in OAR, Eric will facilitate and expedite the process of contract negotiation, as well as ensure compliance with federal regulations. Eric will soon be located in BMW 601.



Don Gray continues in his invaluable role as the Labor Designee and the College's Ethics Officer. In these roles, Don serves as the College's go-to resource on all labor issues and collective bargaining agreements, as well as other personnel matters. We are grateful for his institutional knowledge and ongoing commitment to the College. Don's office remains in Haaren Hall 622.03.

Michelle Arthurton, who is also located in Haaren Hall 622, will continue to ably support the entire Office of Legal Counsel.

I'm excited about the ways that our new team members and these transitions will support the College's needs and priorities. Please join me in congratulating Tony, Jill, and Eric on their new roles at John Jay, and thanking Don for his continuing wisdom and guidance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Karol V. Mason".

Karol V. Mason
President