

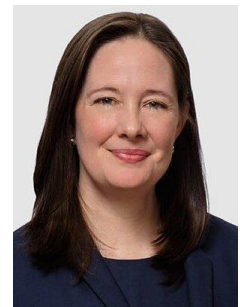
Patterson Belknap Adds Ex-SDNY Prosecutor Maurene Comey

By Alison Knezevich

Law360 (February 25, 2026, 11:11 AM EST) -- Former Manhattan federal prosecutor Maurene Comey, who handled some of the nation's highest-profile cases before she was fired by the Trump administration, has joined Patterson Belknap Webb & Tyler LLP, the firm announced Wednesday.

Comey joined the New York law firm as a partner in the litigation department after a decade-long career in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York.

As a prosecutor, she handled sex trafficking cases against the late financier Jeffrey Epstein and his associate Ghislaine Maxwell, as well as against music mogul Sean "Diddy" Combs. Her other high-profile prosecutions included those against former U.S. Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J., who was convicted of bribery and other charges, and former New York gynecologist Robert Hadden, who was convicted of sexually abusing patients.



Maurene Comey

After being fired over the summer, Comey sued the U.S. Department of Justice in September, alleging her abrupt termination came "solely or substantially" because she is the daughter of former FBI Director James Comey, a critic of President Donald Trump. She said in the lawsuit she was notified in an email that she was fired "pursuant to Article II of the United States Constitution and the laws of the United States."

Her father was indicted in September by a federal grand jury in Virginia on allegations that he lied to Congress in 2020. A federal judge later tossed the criminal case against him, a decision the DOJ has appealed.

In an interview with Law360 Pulse on Wednesday, Maurene Comey said her own experience has "highlighted the importance of a robust defense bar in the face of an increased amount of government overreach that we are seeing over the past year."

At Patterson Belknap, she plans to build a broad litigation practice combining criminal and civil litigation, she said.

With about 200 attorneys, Patterson Belknap stood out to her because it has "a global footprint," but one home base in New York, Comey said.

The attorneys "can go head-to-head with the biggest litigation departments in the world, but they do so

from a single-office model where the lawyers really know each other" and work together to respond to clients' problems, Comey said. The firm's litigators "take cases to trial if necessary, and they're willing to see the inside of a courtroom," which appealed to her, she said.

She said she also admired that Patterson Belknap was among the firms that signed an amicus brief filed last year supporting Perkins Coie LLP's challenge to Trump's executive order targeting the law firm.

"To me, that reflected in the real world how they put into practice their culture and their commitment to the rule of law," she said. "It also showed me that they have one of the hallmarks of a true litigator, which is an unwillingness to bow to pressure or intimidation."

While at the U.S. attorney's office, Comey supervised prosecutors and served as co-chief of the Public Corruption Unit and of the Violent and Organized Crime Unit, Patterson Belknap said.

"We are thrilled to welcome Maurene to our firm," Patterson Belknap co-chair and managing partner, Dahlia Doumar, said in a statement. "Her exceptional skill, depth of experience, and commitment to integrity make her a natural fit for our litigation department and our white collar defense and investigations practice."

Patterson Belknap said that with Comey's arrival, the firm now has eight former federal prosecutors in its ranks.

"Maurene's arrival marks an exciting opportunity for our firm," Joshua Goldberg, chair of the litigation department and co-chair of the white collar defense and investigations group, said in a statement. "Her extensive trial experience and proven ability to lead complex, high-profile investigations will enhance the depth of our litigation department and further bolster our ability to serve clients across the globe."

Comey is a Harvard Law School graduate and earned her bachelor's degree from the College of William & Mary. Early in her career, she worked at Debevoise & Plimpton LLP.

--Additional reporting by Emily Sawicki, Rose Krebs and Ryan Boysen. Editing by Daniel King.