

The Forum of Executive Women Kicks Off 2020 with New Leadership

Julie A. Kaeli succeeds as Executive Director and Kristin McKenna becomes new Associate Director.

PHILADELPHIA – January 22, 2020 – The Forum of Executive Women, a premier women’s leadership organization comprised of more than 450 of the area’s top women leaders, is pleased to announce that **Julie A. Kaeli** has been named Executive Director.

“In light of this year’s 100th anniversary of the 19th amendment, I am proud to be leading The Forum of Executive Women, which for the past 43 years has been at the forefront of the advancement of women leaders of all types,” says Kaeli. “I look forward to working with the membership and the Board of Directors to raise the profile of The Forum as a resource for women leaders and for our region’s companies.”

For five years, Kaeli had served as Associate Director of The Forum and oversaw several initiatives including the *Women in Leadership* report, which has become a leading source of measuring progress for women in the boardroom and C-suite and as top earners in the region. “As associate director, Julie played a significant role in supporting the growth of The Forum,” says Lisa Detwiler, President of The Forum and Managing Director, FS Investment Solutions LLC. “Her passion and expertise will help us develop the organization’s full potential as we continue to leverage the collective power of women’s leadership in the Philadelphia region and beyond.”

Kaeli holds a Master of Science from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism. She began her career as a producer for Court TV before transitioning into female-focused communications including TVgals Media, MavenMag and New York Women in Communications. Kaeli has also managed human resources and compliance for a leading independent investment bank.

Sharon Hardy, who held the executive director role since 2000 and played a pivotal role in the organization’s growth, will remain active in The Forum.

Reporting to Kaeli will be **Kristin McKenna**, who was named The Forum’s Associate Director.

McKenna will support The Forum’s major programming including its annual Leadership Symposium, The Forum’s acclaimed mentoring program for emerging female leaders, and a robust action campaign that urges the region’s companies to create cultures that support gender equity.

McKenna became connected to The Forum in 2013, when she was selected as a mentee for The Forum of Executive Women Mentoring Program. She holds a Master of Laws in Taxation, and a joint program Juris Doctor and MBA degree from Temple University Beasley School of Law, as well as a BS in Accounting from St. Joseph’s University. McKenna recently served as Counsel at Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP in Philadelphia.

“2020 is a landmark year, drawing heightened attention to women’s issues and progress toward gender equity,” says Detwiler. “We are excited to have the strong leadership team of Julie Kaeli and Kristin McKenna at The Forum’s helm to advance the conversation around women in leadership in our region.”

About The Forum of Executive Women

Founded in 1977, The Forum of Executive Women is the region's premier women's organization, actively working to increase the number of women in leadership roles, expand their impact and influence, and position them to drive positive change in the Greater Philadelphia region.

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