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EDITOR'S PICK

Longtime Hodgson Russ attorney moves into role leading Buffalo Bills legal team

Michael Petro

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Terrence M. Gilbride, seen inside the Guaranty Building, is the Bills' new senior vice president and chief legal officer.

Buffalo News file photo

Michael Petro

The Buffalo Bills have their new senior vice president and chief legal officer.

After 35 years at one of Buffalo's largest law firms, which includes work with connections to past Bills-related projects, Terry Gilbride will join the team in the role that was recently vacated in the latest of the team's administrative shakeups.

Gilbride will replace former Bills general counsel Kathryn D'Angelo, who was let go last month after sources confirmed to The Buffalo News that she was having a romantic relationship with then-Bills Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President John Roth that was deemed inappropriate because Roth was her superior.



Shakeup at Buffalo Bills and Sabres as John Roth, Kathryn D'Angelo removed

Roth was also let go by Terry Pegula, who also serves as the team president.

Gilbride spent his entire career as an attorney with Hodgson Russ and during that time, was familiar with transactions that involved the Bills and Pegula Sports and Entertainment, which until this year oversaw Terry and Kim Pegula-owned entities like the Bills and Buffalo Sabres.

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The Bills confirmed the hire but did not release a statement. Gilbride will start Dec. 1.

“Terry Gilbride is an exceptional attorney with deep experience,” said Benjamin M. Zuffranieri, managing partner of Hodgson Russ. “His good judgement and steady hand will greatly benefit the Buffalo Bills organization. The team has made a wise selection. The firm will miss Terry but, like the rest of our community, will benefit from his good work for the Bills.”

He's been involved in multiple transactions with the Bills stadium, including working with Erie County and the Stadium Corp. in negotiating a new lease and stadium renovations with the team a decade ago.

The St. Bonaventure University and University at Buffalo Law School graduate also worked on the legal side to advance the Pegula-owned Harbor Center project, next door to the home of the Sabres.

Gilbride focused his practice on large, multifaceted commercial real estate development projects and headed both the firm's College & University Practice and Public-Private Partnership Practice. He's experienced in sports facility leasing and development and construction law matters, regularly representing owners and developers in construction and architect contract negotiations.

The law firm has said Gilbride was instrumental in building Hodgson Russ' real estate development and public private partnership practices, leading its involvement in high-profile projects across Western New York and beyond. That also includes the Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences and numerous student housing projects at UB and other college campuses across the state and country.

The Bills business operations have been in flux. The Bills transitioned from Ron Raccuia, who led most of the new stadium negotiations but was ousted in July, to Roth as executive vice president and COO, and are now in search of a new business leader for the franchise.

Josh Dziurlikowski is serving in the role on an interim basis. He is the only Bills executive left from the leadership team named to run the team's business department after Roth's hire.

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