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Parsons Behle Names 1st Woman To Lead Office In Reno, Nev.

By **Adrian Cruz**

Law360 (May 28, 2024, 3:30 PM EDT) -- Parsons Behle & Latimer PC has named an experienced environmental and energy attorney who's been at the Intermountain West firm for nearly a decade as the first woman managing shareholder of its Reno, Nevada, office.

Ashley C. Nikkel was named managing shareholder of Parsons Behle's Reno office, the firm said May 22, adding that she's the first woman to serve in the role since the office's 2006 opening. Longtime litigation shareholder Michael Kealy previously led the Reno office before Nikkel's appointment, the firm said.

"I'm thrilled to assume the role of managing shareholder with an eye toward expanding our Nevada environmental practice," Nikkel told Law360 Pulse on Tuesday. "We will also continue to develop the next generation of litigators and transactional attorneys in anticipation of our clients' needs and to support their businesses."



Ashley C. Nikkel

"The culture shift at Parsons is palpable," Nikkel added. "When I began working here as an associate in 2014, there were no other women in the Reno office. A decade later, I'm proud to say that we now have as many women shareholders here as we do men. Parsons is serious about empowering its women attorneys across the firm and in leadership — and it shows."

A graduate of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law, Nikkel first joined Parsons Behle as an associate in 2014, according to her LinkedIn page. Nikkel's practice focuses on working with mining and energy clients operating on public lands, which includes environmental permitting and compliance efforts. She also has experience advising on mining transactions and litigation such as real estate matters, Parsons Behle said.

"Ashley Nikkel is a powerful attorney who represents some of Parson Behle & Latimer's biggest clients in complex, high-stakes matters," Kealy said in a statement. "She has helped to build the next generation of lawyers in the firm's Nevada office. Her collaborative, inclusive approach has demonstrated her strength as a leader. We are both proud and fortunate to have Ashley as the new managing shareholder of our Nevada office."

Parsons Behle currently has over 190 attorneys in 10 offices in the states of Utah, Idaho, Montana, Nevada and Wyoming, according to the firm's website.

--Editing by Daniel King.

Update: This story has been updated with a comment from Ashley Nikkel.

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