



# NEWS RELEASE

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GENERAL COUNSEL ALFRED J. T. BYRNE TO RETURN TO PRIVATE PRACTICE;  
FDIC BOARD APPOINTS DOUGLAS H. JONES AS ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL

FDIC General Counsel Alfred J. T. Byrne has decided to return to private law practice. Mr. Byrne will be leaving the FDIC on November 12 to join the law firm of Patton, Boggs & Blow as a partner in the Washington office.

The FDIC Board of Directors today announced the appointment of Douglas H. Jones to serve as Acting General Counsel after Mr. Byrne leaves. Mr. Jones, a lawyer with the FDIC since 1974, has been the second highest ranking official in the Legal Division since Mr. Byrne joined the FDIC as General Counsel on June 4, 1990.

The General Counsel is in charge of the FDIC's Legal Division, which is one of the largest legal organizations in the world with nearly 1,000 lawyers located in 52 offices. The Division is responsible for all legal work on FDIC transactions, litigation, and corporate and commercial claims throughout the country. The Division also supervises more than 1,500 outside law firms under contract to the FDIC.

Under Mr. Byrne's tenure, the FDIC Legal Division doubled in size; reduced outside counsel expenses by \$200 million; provided legal advice in the handling of approximately 375 bank failures; expanded opportunities for minorities and women as staff attorneys and as outside counsel; began development of an electronic information system to track and manage the Division's work load; and helped draft major regulations implementing recent changes in banking law.

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When Mr. Byrne became General Counsel in mid-1990, the Legal Division was handling approximately 140,000 matters (including litigation cases, bankruptcy claims and non-litigation matters) for the FDIC and the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC). Mr. Byrne directed a series of management improvements to help the FDIC handle its growing case load. He directed the establishment of a separate legal division for the Resolution Trust Corporation (RTC) in 1991, which resulted in the transfer of more than 60,000 legal matters to the RTC. Due to this transfer, plus the closing of other matters by the FDIC Legal Division during the last two years and the recent slowdown in bank failures, the Division's active case load stood at about 32,000 matters as of the end of September 1993.

FDIC Chairman Andrew C. Hove, Jr., said today: "The FDIC Board of Directors wishes to thank Al Byrne for more than three years of outstanding service to this agency and to the federal government. He has been a trusted advisor and strong leader through some of the most difficult periods in FDIC history."

As Senior Deputy General Counsel, Mr. Jones has served as Mr. Byrne's chief advisor with primary responsibility for the development of the legal policies for bank regulation and supervision. Regarding the appointment of Mr. Jones as Acting General Counsel, Mr. Hove said: "The FDIC is very fortunate to have Doug Jones to turn to at this time. He is widely respected as a banking lawyer and policy advisor, and we know he will do an outstanding job overseeing the Legal Division during the coming period."

Mr. Jones joined the FDIC after graduating with honors from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1973 and serving one year as clerk to U.S. District Court Judge R. Dorsey Watkins in Baltimore. He had been a Deputy General Counsel at the FDIC from 1981 until his appointment to Senior Deputy General Counsel in 1990. He is married and has three children.

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