

Neufeld Scheck Adds Former Judge as Counsel

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Nancy Gertner

Nancy Gertner, a former federal district judge in Massachusetts, will be working with Neufeld Scheck & Brustin in a special counsel role. She focused on civil rights and criminal defense for 24 years in private practice before being appointed to the bench in 1994 by President Bill Clinton. She retired in 2011 and is now a professor at Harvard Law School teaching criminal justice courses. Gertner, 67, said she will continue as a full-time professor at Harvard and will have an office at eight-lawyer Neufeld Scheck in New York.

Gertner said she has known firm founder Barry Scheck for decades and their work coincided when they were in the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. When she became a judge, she said, "I saw things from a different perspective. I saw the impact of bad science and witness identification on convictions. And in some cases, not so great lawyering. When I left the bench, I was determined to do something about it." Neufeld Scheck, she said, "is the best place to do it." In addition to their civil rights practice, Scheck and Peter Neufeld are co-directors of the Innocence Project at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law.

Neufeld Scheck partner Nick Brustin called Gertner "one of the foremost civil rights lawyers" in the country and said "she is incredibly committed to the criminal justice issues we care about, the civil rights issues we care about and we're really excited to collaborate with her."

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