Former Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. Joins Millstein Center at Columbia Law School

Chief Justice Strine named the Ira M. Millstein Distinguished Senior Fellow

New York, July 8, 2020—The Ira M. Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership at Columbia Law School announced today that Former Delaware Supreme Court Chief Justice Leo E. Strine, Jr. will join the center as the Ira M. Millstein Distinguished Senior Fellow.

Strine recently completed a distinguished 21 years of service on the Delaware bench. He served as chief justice of the Delaware Supreme Court from 2014 to 2019.

While at Columbia, Strine will collaborate with the Millstein Center in a variety of ways, including conducting research in the areas of business law and corporate governance, speaking at academic events, and engaging with business leaders. In conjunction with joining Columbia Law School, Strine will hold a joint affiliation with the University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, where he has been named the Michael L. Wachter Distinguished Fellow in Law and Policy.

“I am delighted to partner with Chief Justice Strine,” stated Ira M. Millstein, founding chair of the center and senior partner at Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP. “His thought leadership will be instrumental to the center, and we are eager to collaborate with him on scholarship and leadership engagement. In particular, his vision to promote fair and sustainable capitalism is right in line with the themes of our Counter-Narratives Project.”

Erica Mitnick Klein, the Millstein Center’s new executive director, said “Having previously been a student of Chief Justice Strine’s and subsequently following his decisions and writings, I am deeply appreciative of the considerable and far-reaching impact he has had as a legal scholar, educator, and judge. I look forward to working with him to advance the mission of the center.”

Reflecting on his joining Columbia Law School, Strine said, “For years, I’ve been honored to work with the outstanding business law faculty at Columbia on a variety of projects and to participate in their classes and programs sponsored by the Millstein Center. I’m excited to work even more
closely with them, including because the law school, in general, and the Millstein Center, in particular, recognize how important fair economic and corporate governance systems are for the proper functioning of our society.”

On his Millstein Center appointment, Strine remarked, “It’s an honor to hold a position named for Ira Millstein. Ira ranks among the most influential leaders in the field of corporate governance, a consummate professional as a top-caliber lawyer who went beyond that to make a lasting impact as a thought leader in corporate governance. His belief that it is essential to our nation that businesses conduct themselves with integrity is one I share, and I welcome helping the Millstein Center continue its mission to generate scholarship and solutions that make that belief a reality.”

Columbia Law School Dean Gillian Lester, the Lucy G. Moses Professor of Law, believes Chief Justice Strine’s presence will expand the intellectual bounds of Columbia’s community, faculty, and students. “Columbia is proud and honored to welcome one of the top legal minds of our time.”

Eric Talley, Millstein Center co-director and Isidor and Seville Sulzbacher Professor of Law, commented that “Chief Justice Strine is not only a distinguished judge and scholar, but also a valued voice of reason. I am thrilled for the opportunity to work alongside him, as is everyone here at the Millstein Center.”

Prior to his tenure as chief justice of the Delaware Supreme Court, Strine served as chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery since 2011 and as a vice chancellor since 1998. Strine is widely considered to be one of the most influential judges in the history of American corporate law. He has authored numerous landmark opinions that have helped to shape many key facets of modern business law in areas core to the center, including corporate governance, fiduciary duties and mergers and acquisitions.

In addition, Strine is a renowned legal scholar. He is one of the most cited authors on HeinOnline, and his scores of articles on business and public law topics have appeared frequently in prominent journals and university law reviews, including Columbia Law Review, as well as Harvard Law Review, Stanford Law Review, and University of Pennsylvania Law Review. On several occasions, Strine’s articles have been selected as among the Best Corporate and Securities Articles of the year, based on the choices of academic teachers. Strine also holds longstanding teaching positions at Harvard and University of Pennsylvania Carey Law Schools, where he teaches a diverse array of corporate law courses.

Prior to joining the Court of Chancery, Strine was counsel to Governor Thomas R. Carper of the State of Delaware and a corporate litigator at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom. Strine graduated magna cum laude from the Law School at the University of Pennsylvania in 1988, where he was selected as a member of the Order of the Coif. He received his bachelor’s degree summa cum laude from the University of Delaware in 1985 and was selected as a member of Phi Beta Kappa.
About the Millstein Center
Building on Columbia Law School’s longstanding strength in corporate and securities law, the Millstein Center operates at the forefront of new thinking about how corporations are governed. The center engages with business leaders and board directors to create meaningful dialogue about the challenges companies face, and serves as a focal point for the most innovative research into the policy solutions required to tackle those challenges.

About Ira M. Millstein
Ira M. Millstein is the Founding Chair of the Ira M. Millstein Center for Global Markets and Corporate Ownership at Columbia Law School and a leading authority in the areas of corporate governance, government regulation, and antitrust law. He is a senior partner at the international law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP, and author of The Activist Director: Lessons from the Boardroom and the Future of the Corporation.