

# Goldman Sachs Ex-GC Karen Seymour Lands At Sullivan & Cromwell

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By Dan Clark

*Editor's note: This story has been updated with additional information about Seymour's move.*

Following the departure of two managers in the past week, Goldman Sachs' general counsel Karen Seymour will be leaving the investment firm to return to Sullivan & Cromwell.

On Wednesday, Sullivan & Cromwell announced that Seymour would be rejoining the firm as a partner and member of the litigation practice and criminal defense investigations group in New York. She will be at Goldman until the end of March and return in the spring to Sullivan & Cromwell, where she will join the law firm's management committee.

"I am thrilled to rejoin my friends and colleagues at Sullivan & Cromwell, where I began my legal career. This is a homecoming for me. And the firm is perfectly positioned to serve its clients on complex and challenging issues, and I look forward to working together with some of the best lawyers and clients in the world," Seymour said in the press release.

Goldman Sachs is one of Sullivan & Cromwell's longest-running client relationships. Several alumni of the law firm have ended up in Goldman Sachs' legal department.

"Her experience as general counsel of Goldman Sachs will enhance her years of experience as one of the country's leading private practitioners, advising corporations, financial institutions and individuals on a wide range of issues," Joseph Shenker, chair of Sullivan & Cromwell, said in the announcement.

Other media outlets have reported that Seymour will be replaced by Kathryn Ruemmler, who currently serves as the head of global and regulatory affairs for the firm. This could not be independently verified by Corporate Counsel. Ruemmler could not be reached for comment Wednesday.

Ruemmler previously served as a litigation partner at Latham & Watkins, where she was the global chair of the white-collar defense and investigations practice. She also served as White House counsel under President Barrack Obama, and as associate counsel under President Bill Clinton.

Seymour joined Goldman Sachs in 2018 after working as a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell in the criminal defense and investigations group. Seymour also served as the chief of the criminal division in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York, where

she became known for her prosecution of businesswoman and television personality Martha Stewart in 2004. Seymour graduated from the University of Texas School of Law Austin. She also has a Master of Law from the University of London.

Seymour was named in a lawsuit by former in-house attorney Marla Crawford. Crawford claimed she was fired from the bank for trying to speak with internal investigators about sexual harassment allegations by the firm's head of litigation Darrell Cafasso. Crawford alleged in the suit that Seymour worked to cover up the allegations. The bank has said the allegations in the lawsuit are false. In February, a New York Supreme Court judge ordered that Crawford arbitrate her claims with the bank.

When asked whether the Crawford suit had anything to do with her departure, Seymour said it was no factor at all.

“Goldman was a wonderful experience and has really great people and I enjoyed it tremendously, but I also really enjoy private practice,” she said in a brief interview.

Cafasso also joined the bank from Sullivan & Cromwell. Cafasso remains head of litigation at Goldman Sachs.

The move in the legal department came at the same time that Goldman Sachs is preparing to restart its cryptocurrency trading desk.

Seymour's departure from the bank comes shortly after Eric Lane, the firm's co-head of asset management, announced he would be leaving Goldman Sachs on Monday. It was reported that Omer Ismail would be leaving Goldman Sachs as the head of consumer business to join Walmart's fintech venture.

*Christine Simmons contributed to this report.*

**Dan Clark**

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