

## **Charles Clayman Joins The Board of Gideon's Promise** White Collar Criminal Defense Pioneer

April 12, 2019 (New York) – Charles Clayman, the founding partner of Clayman & Rosenberg LLP, a leading law firm focused on white collar criminal defense, has been named to the board of Gideon's Promise, a national non-profit organization dedicated to ensuring access to justice in underserved communities across America.

“Charles has witnessed first-hand the challenges public defenders face to uphold the Constitutional rights of marginalized populations in this country and we are pleased to have him join us in expanding the critical services Gideon's Promise public defenders provide to more cities across the country,” said Jonathan Rapping, the founder of Gideon's Promise. “The mission to transform the criminal justice system and provide proper legal representation to all is still in its infancy; and we welcome Charles' experience and vision to our board of directors.”

For more than three decades, Clayman has represented individuals in federal and state investigations and prosecutions throughout the United States. He began his career as an Assistant District Attorney in the Manhattan District Attorney's Office and later served as an Assistant United States Attorney in Eastern District of New York and as General Counsel to the New York City Department of Investigation. Clayman has lectured widely and taught CLE courses in federal and state criminal practice for the New York State Bar Association and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. He is also a long time faculty member of the Intensive Trial Advocacy Program at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. He is a graduate of Harvard College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

“The work of Gideon's Promise is essential to the system of justice every lawyer has sworn to uphold and I am proud to be working with them in this capacity,” Clayman said. “The unsung heroes of our democracy are the public defenders who work tirelessly to ensure that the rights of the accused are maintained. I salute the efforts of Gideon's Promise and look forward to contributing to their valuable work.”

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Gideon v. Wainright* that state courts are required under the Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution to provide counsel in criminal cases to represent defendants who are unable to afford their own attorneys. However, the dramatic shortage of public defenders in America has resulted in many individuals not receiving the legal counsel guaranteed them under this ruling.

According to a [report](#) from the Justice Policy Institute, “national standards recommend that public defenders handle no more than 150 felony, 400 misdemeanor, 200 juvenile, 200 mental health, or 25 appeals per year.” Based on these standards, only 21% of state-based public defender offices and 27% of county-based public defender offices have enough attorneys to manage their caseloads:

- In Missouri, public defenders can handle up to [150 cases at a time](#).
- In Kentucky the average public defender worked on [460 cases in 2016](#).
- In Florida, the annual felony caseload for public defenders was [500 felonies](#).
- In Washington State public defenders are able to work only about [an hour per case](#).
- In New Orleans, attorneys spend only an average of [seven minutes](#) per case.

[About Clayman & Rosenberg LLP](#)

Clayman & Rosenberg LLP is a nationally-focused law firm dedicated to guiding individuals and business entities through the challenges posed by criminal, regulatory, and civil matters in state and federal courts. The firm's core areas of expertise include Criminal Defense, Civil Litigation, Regulatory Matters and Appeals. Many of the firm's attorneys are former federal and state prosecutors with the knowledge and judgement to help clients address difficult circumstances and resolve challenging problems.

#### About Gideon's Promise

Gideon's Promise, founded in 2007, is the only organization dedicated to partnering with public defenders in under resourced offices to drive transformative changes in systems where the need is greatest. The mission of Gideon's Promise is to transform the criminal justice system by building a movement of public defenders who provide equal justice for marginalized communities. It infuses a value based approach into its comprehensive and ongoing public defender training and mentorship programs as it forges a community of the best public defenders in the country to transform criminal justice.

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