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Fast-Growing Croke Fairchild Bolsters Litigation, Lobbying Prowess in Expansion

*Responding to Client Demand,
Firm Deepens Full-Service Capacity*

CHICAGO, February 1, 2023 — [Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC](#), the three-year-old firm founded by entrepreneurially minded Big Law alumni, has merged with Prendergast Layden, Ltd. and has co-located with its related lobbying and government affairs entity, Point of Difference Strategies.

Prendergast Layden is an established Chicago-based litigation boutique noted for its extensive trial experience and complex commercial litigation practice, including in the areas of life sciences, e-commerce, partnership and shareholder matters, and government procurement contract disputes. The merged firm comprises 84 lawyers and support staff, and will operate as Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC.

“This combination enables us to more fully support our growing client base in managing risk, achieving positive results in litigation, and, ultimately, growing their businesses,” said partner Richard J. Prendergast.

His partner, Michael T. Layden, added that, “At a moment when enterprises large and small are navigating economic uncertainty and strategic complexity, this robust team of accomplished litigators, successful deal-makers and savvy government affairs advocates offers our clients the confidence of knowing they have all the best resources on their side.”

Prendergast, a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers and past president of the Chicago Bar Association, also pointed to the core values shared by the partners in the newly combined firm, adding, “We were drawn to Croke Fairchild by their commitment to their clients and their commitment to one another. We share that commitment in full.”

Croke Fairchild Founding Partner Patrick Croke echoed that theme, noting, “True, long term and deep partnerships with our clients are the bedrock of our culture and philosophy. In this spirit of partnership, we have to provide every resource to fully support our clients. We are excited to join forces with these tremendously talented litigators to enhance our ability to provide the trial experience and full range of counseling and advice to our clients.”

The combined firm represents financial institutions, Fortune 500 companies, private equity sponsors, venture capital firms, private investment funds, institutional investors, insurance companies, pharmaceutical companies, biotech firms, family offices, family businesses, founders and startups throughout the world.

“Our long-standing independence afforded us the autonomy to be innovative and flexible in how we worked with our clients,” said Layden, who, along with partner Robin Letchinger, will co-chair the CFDB litigation practice. “Through this combination, we’ve joined forces with colleagues who have that same nimble approach and intellectual drive to meet the sophisticated needs of today. We are proud to be a part of the fastest growing law firm in Chicago.”

The Croke Fairchild Management Committee is co-chaired by partners Jessica Fairchild and Lisa Duarte, who also heads Point of Difference Strategies, which has expanded its office with Croke Fairchild in a new space at 180 N. La Salle.

“We all understand the founder mentality because, as founders ourselves, we have it too,” said Fairchild. “Like the entrepreneurial and innovation-minded businesses we serve, we know this is a time to be bold and optimistic in deepening our commitment to our clients and the market we serve. We look forward to continued growth alongside our clients for a great many years to come.”

“We’re excited to be partnering with each other,” Duarte said, “because we are building on one another’s strengths. Even more than that, we’re excited about the deeper partnerships we’re now able to create with our clients through the full life cycle of their enterprises. Whatever their business needs to thrive, we’ve got a robust team in place to help make it happen for them.”

About Croke Fairchild:

A full-service law firm with offices in Chicago and Milwaukee, Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC is a certified Women’s Business Enterprise and home to a diverse team of trusted advisors and counselors valued for their legal skill, intellectual curiosity and commitment to forging pragmatic solutions. The firm’s clients include entrepreneurs, investors, growth-stage companies and Fortune 500 companies. For more information, visit www.crokefairchild.com.

Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres LLC maintains a lobbying and government affairs entity, Point of Difference Strategies. For more information, visit www.podstrategies.com.