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Jan. 3, 2007

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New 640-Lawyer Firm Established As Combination of Drinker Biddle and Gardner Carton Becomes Effective

PHILADELPHIA & CHICAGO – After announcing their intention to combine in November, the law firms of **Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP** and **Gardner Carton & Douglas LLP** are now officially merged.

The new firm enters the new year as Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, but will be known as Drinker Biddle Gardner Carton in Chicago and Milwaukee during 2007. The combined firm includes more than 640 lawyers in 12 offices nationwide, making it one of the 70 largest law firms in the United States.

“This combination provides our clients with a critical mass of top-notch lawyers across the country,” said Alfred W. Putnam Jr., chairman of Drinker Biddle. “We now have major presences – each with more than 100 professionals – in the dynamic legal markets of Philadelphia, Chicago, New Jersey and Washington, D.C.”

While expanding and deepening its presence in several key markets across the country, the combination also has strengthened many of the firm’s core practice areas. For example, the firm’s newly combined intellectual property group has more than 80 professionals, making it one of the biggest IP groups in any U.S. full-service law firm. Other examples of the firm’s enhanced capabilities to provide superior client service include:

- In the corporate and securities practice, the number of public companies served increases, as does representation of businesses based abroad in places such as Europe, Asia and Australia.
- The corporate restructuring practice’s capabilities double, with the addition of lawyers in both New York City and Chicago along with a prominent

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bondholder/creditor representation team handling large national cases. The firm now has a presence in three of the top five bankruptcy venues: New York, Chicago and Delaware.

- The firm now boasts more than 300 litigators in a wide variety of practice teams, including general commercial, antitrust, communications, products liability, mass tort and class actions, environmental, insurance, labor and employment, construction, corporate governance and securities and white collar crime.
- The investment management practice, which pre-merger was already recognized by *The American Lawyer* as one of the top 10 groups in the nation, gains additional depth with the addition of lawyers with significant experience in hedge funds that complements the existing group's broad 1940 Act practice.
- A pharmaceutical industry consortia practice joins lawyers already serving top pharmaceutical companies. This practice adds significant experience to a large and continually growing government and regulatory affairs practice.
- The combination of one of the country's premier ERISA law practices with an expanded labor and employment group, with specialties in defense of class actions, creates a human resources law group that will compete with the largest firms in the country.
- The firm's commitment to health care law remains – and in particular in representation of large academic medical centers – with a group of more than 40 professionals comprising a practice that has been ranked No. 1 in the United States by *Chambers USA*.
- In real estate, a highly respected Midwest-based team of lawyers provides a strong complement to existing strengths on the East Coast, along with enhancing national relationships in commercial and retail development and leasing.
- Several nationally known industry-focused practices, including education, customs and trade, and Native American affairs, now gain a larger platform from which to provide service to their clients.

According to the firm's management, the process of combining the firms is going very smoothly.

"The integration of the two firms has been progressing since we announced the merger in November, and that process will continue during the year ahead," said Andrew C. Kassner, executive partner of Drinker Biddle. "There are many logistical

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details in a combination of this size that need to be handled, but one of the most important aspects of the combination – the blending of the firms’ cultures – has been an overwhelming success, something we expected from the very beginning.”

Some business-related details of the combination include:

- The firm has redomesticated as a Delaware limited liability partnership.
- Drinker Biddle’s Chicago lawyers have relocated from 161 N. Clark St. to the Gardner Carton’s 191 N. Wacker Dr. offices.
- Gardner Carton’s New York City lawyers will be moving to Drinker Biddle’s 140 Broadway location later this month.
- Additional office space is under construction at Drinker Biddle’s Washington, D.C., office at 1500 K St. NW. Lawyers and professionals from Gardner Carton’s office at 1301 K St. NW will be relocating in the spring.
- Both firms’ graphic identities have been merged into a new look, with a combined website launched today.

The new Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP, a full-service national law firm, has more than 640 lawyers practicing in Philadelphia; Chicago; Washington, D.C.; New York City; San Francisco; Los Angeles; Milwaukee; Wilmington, Del.; Florham Park, N.J.; Princeton, N.J.; Berwyn, Pa.; and, Albany, N.Y.

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