

Rawle & Henderson lawyers leave to open Philadelphia office for fast-growing Tyson & Mendes

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Maureen Daley of Tyson & Mendes

TYSON & MENDES



By Jeff Blumenthal – Senior Reporter, Philadelphia Business Journal

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Four Rawle & Henderson lawyers, including three partners, have left the firm to open a Philadelphia office for San Diego-based litigation defense firm Tyson & Mendes.

Maureen Daley, who had worked at Rawle since 2002 and served time as chair of the firm's premises liability department, will lead the new office. She is joined by partners Jocelyne Peregoy and Joseph Longo and senior counsel Allan Goulding – all of whom often work together in handling cases.

Daley represents corporations and individuals in cases involving casualty, premises liability, product liability, employment and insurance coverage. In addition to her practice, she serves as judge pro tem for the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and is an appointed arbitrator and private mediator.

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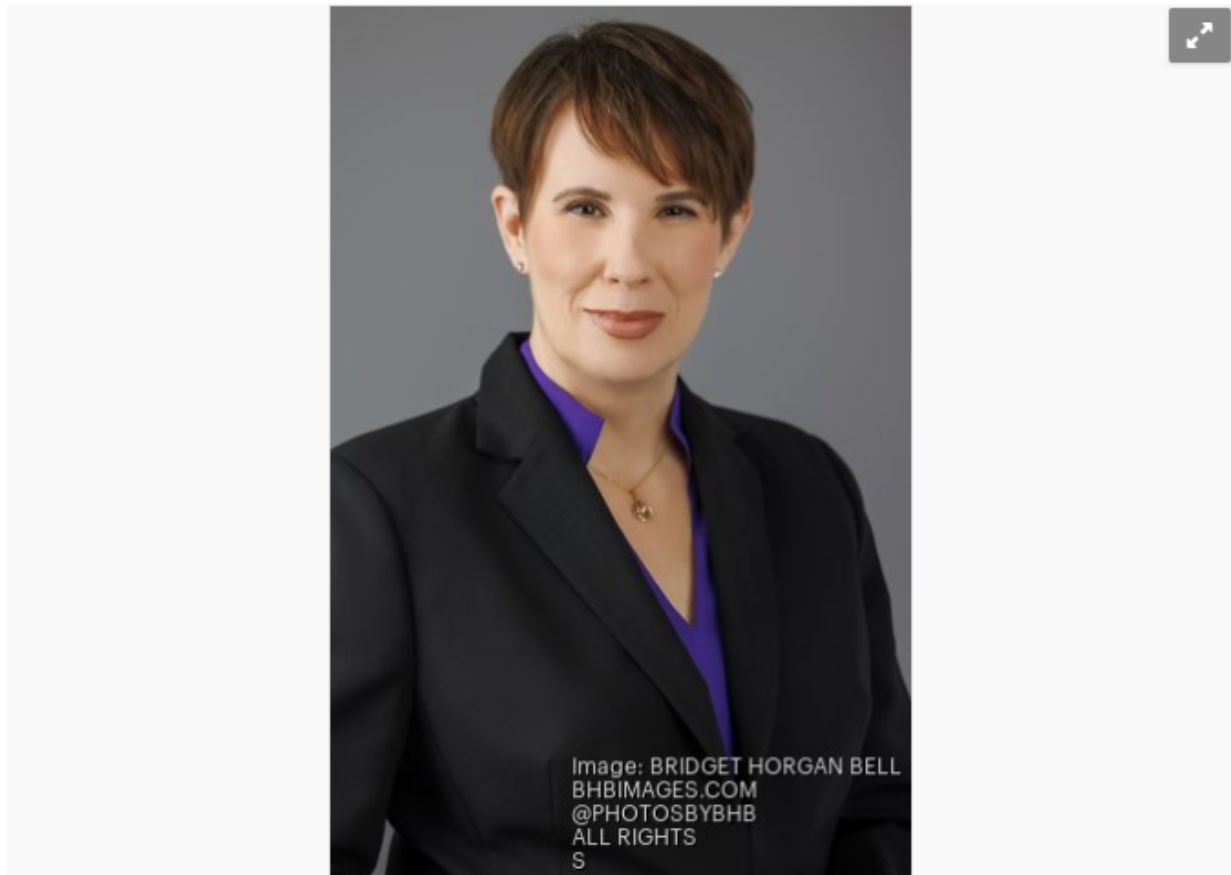
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Peregoy focuses her practice on matters involving commercial motor vehicle, premises liability, general casualty, employment law, church sexual abuse law, liquor liability law and product liability litigation. Longo specializes in product liability, premises liability, professional liability, and casualty matters. And Goulding represents insurance carriers, international businesses, self-insured entities, and local businesses in matters involving all aspects of insurance defense litigation.

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Jocelyn Peregoy of Tyson & Mendes

BRIDGET HORGAN BELL

In an interview Tuesday, Daley said she was intrigued by the focus at Tyson & Mendes on combating what defense litigators believe are juries returning verdicts that are not in proportion to either the injuries or the damages in the case. Tyson & Mendes co-founder Robert Tyson has written books on the topic.

In addition, Daley said she was intrigued by the larger size and geographic scope of Tyson & Mendes.

“For clients of mine that do national business that offers an opportunity to consider Tyson & Mendes as their go-to firm,” Daley said. “So that if I was defending them here in Pennsylvania, the firm can also defend them in the Midwest or on the West Coast [in other cases].”

Founded in 2002 by Tyson and Patrick Mendes, Tyson & Mendes has more than 225 lawyers spread over 23 U.S. offices. The firm has been pushing eastward with aggressive expansion in recent years. When it [opened a Chicago office in August 2020](#), the firm had just 11 offices.

Daley said she and her team are currently working out of temporary space in Radnor, and the firm is looking for permanent space somewhere in the suburbs. She said with hybrid work schedules, the firm felt a suburban location would be best. Tyson & Mendes allows employees to choose where they would be most productive – at home or in the office.

“Everybody has developed a way to work remotely – to take depositions remotely,” Daley said. “The courts are not all conducting conferences remotely but some still are maintaining Zoom appearances. So if an individual wants to work remotely, and that works into their schedule, then they may do so. But the same is true that with the unpredictable need for office space, you can kind of get around that with having people work remote and/or coming into the office.”

When looking for a permanent office, Daley said Tyson & Mendes will take into account plans to add lawyers in this region. The firm is advertising to hire an associate, paralegal, legal assistant and receptionist.



Joe Longo of Tyson & Mendes

JESS GRAVES

While Tyson & Mendes is a large firm for one that focus on insurance and civil defense work, it is only half the size of Philadelphia's Marshall Dennehey, which has 500 lawyers spread over 13 offices.

Rawle & Henderson, established in 1783, is the oldest U.S. law firm. It has 89 lawyers spread over 13 offices: Philadelphia, Blue Bell, Harrisburg and Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania; Jersey City, Iselin, Hackensack and Mount Laurel in New Jersey; New York City and Mineola in New York; New Haven, Connecticut; Wheeling, West Virginia; and Wilmington, Delaware. Its headquarters location is at 1500 Market Street in Center City,

where it [relocated last year](#) from the Widener Building.

“With the evolving legal landscape, some attorneys inevitably choose to pursue other career options,” Rawle Executive Committee member John McMeekin said in a statement. “While we wish our former partners well, we are excited for our own continued growth as we build upon our own extraordinary legacy as the nation’s oldest law firm in continuous practice.”

McMeekin also noted that partner Patrick Finnegan joined the firm Tuesday from McGivney Kluger Clark & Intoccia.