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BOSTON ATTORNEY MICHAEL J. PUZO BECOMES CHAIRMAN OF BOSTON LYRIC OPERA BOARD

(BOSTON, Mass.) – October 21, 2015 – Trust and estate attorney Michael J. Puzo, a partner at Hemenway & Barnes LLP and managing director at New Hampshire-based Hemenway Trust Company, formally was voted in as chairman of Boston Lyric Opera’s Board of Directors at the group’s annual meeting last night. Puzo succeeds chair Steve Akin, who served as Chair from 2006 to 2015.

A board member since 2010, Puzo has a deep history of supporting Boston-area arts organizations, particularly music and opera. In his work at Hemenway & Barnes, he is as a trustee for private trusts and charitable foundations, oversees estate and charitable gift planning for private clients, and provides counsel on a range of financial and legal issues. At Hemenway Trust, Puzo serves as treasurer and chairman of HTC’s Investment Committee.

“Boston Lyric Opera is in the best shape of its 40-year history,” Puzo says. “It is one of the city’s great arts organizations, with a vital role to play regionally and nationally. Our task as its board is to maintain this upward trajectory, and to ensure a first-class opera company for the city and the region.”

Puzo was introduced to opera as a child, when he and his Irish-born grandmother sat together in her Bronx home listening to the Metropolitan Opera on the radio. “She never went to the theater to have the full opera experience,” he said. “I learned later that opera was even more vibrant and exciting in person. So as chair, I want to widen the circle of people in New England who enjoy, support, visit and get involved with Boston Lyric Opera – it’s a continuing responsibility.”

“Michael’s passion for the art and business of opera is exciting for us,” says Esther Nelson, BLO’s Stanford Calderwood General & Artistic Director. “He supports a vision to make the company the best it can be and has the experience to get us there. Michael is the epitome of walking the walk – a serious student of the art form and a committed champion of its future. I look forward to working with him and the entire board on BLO’s next chapter.”

Puzo served previously on the Boston Opera Association board, which hosted annual tours of The Metropolitan Opera. He is a trustee and former chair of South Shore Conservatory, and a member of the Boston College Law School Dean’s Advisory Board. A resident of Hingham, Mass, Puzo has long been involved in town affairs and currently serves as Hingham Town Moderator.

Born in New York City, Puzo is an alumnus of Boston College and Boston College Law School, which awarded him the Founder’s Medal for embodying its “tradition of professionalism, scholarship and service.” He is a nationally sought-after expert on trusts and estates, and is quoted regularly in regional and national media outlets on the topic.

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MEDIA: Michael Puzo is available to talk about his new role with Boston Lyric Opera. For interviews, photos and more information, contact BLO@goodmanmedia.com or 212-576-2700.