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FROM THE PLAYGROUND TO THE BUSINESS ARENA
Two Childhood Friends Form Law Firm Together

From childhood, Jenette Mathai and Christina Varghese daydreamed how they would one day advocate for others' rights and interests. Little did they realize they would one day fulfill these dreams by forming a law firm together.

Born in New York as the children of east-Indian immigrants, their friendship began in diapers and evolved into a working partnership based upon mutual respect and admiration. Their parents had come to the United States determined to defeat poverty and find a better quality of life. It was not until years later that Mathai and Varghese also realized that their parents instilled in their daughters an unshakeable work ethic and the confidence that would help them excel as attorneys and small-business owners.

Growing up, Mathai and Varghese were similar to many teenage girls who squealed over teenage crushes and hanging out at the mall with friends. Unlike most teenage girls, however, they both had a real passion to change the world. "Sure, everyone says that they want to change the world. However, how many teenagers do you know who actually strategize about eradicating racism or eliminating world poverty? Jenette and I would spend hours on the phone discussing how we would go about accomplishing these goals," explains Varghese. Mathai adds, "We talked about a world where women could be successful in any workforce. We especially loved the idea of a woman acting as an effective advocate on behalf of others. I never would have imagined that Christina and I would actually live out these dreams by pursuing a legal career together."

Although Mathai and Varghese both attended University of Florida and graduated as political science majors, their journeys took them through distinct and separate paths. "We stayed in touch while we were at University of Florida together, but due to the diversity of our interests and groups of friends, life took us into very different directions throughout and after our undergraduate studies," said Mathai. Varghese moved on to attend University of Florida Fredric G. Levin College of Law, while Mathai pursued her legal education at Boston College Law School.

Mathai and Varghese eventually returned to South Florida to pursue their legal careers. Mathai practiced as a corporate attorney at Bilzin Sumberg Bacna Price & Axelrod LLP, while Varghese solidified her litigation practice at the former Atlas Pearlman, P.A., Akerman Senterfitt, P.A., and, most recently, Stearns, Weaver, Miller, Weissler, Alhadeff & Sitterson, P.A. After losing touch, they both reconnected and immediately rekindled their childhood friendship.

While each was successful at her respective law firm, Mathai and Varghese left their large law firms out of a desire to create a sophisticated legal practice that would better foster one-on-one client relationships through a small firm atmosphere. Moreover, they also wanted to create a law firm that had a social conscience. Out of those dreams, on May 1, 2006, Mathai and Varghese opened the doors of SolAmbit Law Group, PLLC. Sol means "sun" in Spanish and Ambit means "sphere of influence, experience, and action." Mathai and Varghese created this name to emphasize their desire to passionately exercise their legal experience and influence in Florida, "the Sunshine State," on behalf of their clients.

Mathai and Varghese recognize that business owners frequently encounter obstacles in forming a successful business, such as acquiring capital and obtaining a client base. They are particularly sensitive to the fact that these obstacles are heightened for female and minority business owners due to negative stereotypes and perceptions from the outside world. Nonetheless, these obstacles did nothing to slow down or stop Mathai and Varghese from starting a law firm together. While many people would be dissuaded from entering into business with their childhood friends, these women dove into their new business with their eyes open, prepared to overcome any challenges they faced.

From playmates on the playground to business partners, they have been defying obstacles since they were little girls. Their drive and determination to prevail against the odds only fuel their passion to advocate for their clients' rights successfully. Mathai and Varghese emphatically believe that SolAmbit Law Group, PLLC will succeed since they both share the same value system, work ethic, commitment and vision, along with a desire to give back to the community through pro bono legal work. "Because we share these core values, we believe we are already successful," Varghese stated.

SolAmbit Law Group, PLLC practices law in the following areas of practice: corporate, real estate, civil litigation, employment and labor, medical malpractice and estate planning. To learn more about SolAmbit Law Group, PLLC, visit the webpage www.solambitlaw.com.

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If you'd like more information about SolAmbit Law Group, PLLC, or to schedule an interview with Christina Varghese or Jenette Mathai, please call Christina Varghese at (954) 627-6621 or email her at cvarghese@solambitlaw.com.