The economy’s strong headwinds have shredded staff and resources at many law firms around the country. In contrast, McElroy, Deutsch, Mulvaney & Carpenter, LLP, has faced challenging times with creativity, bold moves and a firm grip on the deeply held values that have made it the third-largest law firm in New Jersey.

At the end of 2010, when most firms were caught downsizing, MDM&C placed second among the top 250 law firms, increasing staff by 15.9 percent, according to the National Law Journal. The firm continues to sponsor large classes of summer associates, welcome in a healthy volume of new fall associates, and integrate law firms of complementary talents and goals.

“Despite the uncertain economy, our vision and management allow us to focus on providing the best legal services. We’ve also been flexible in our fee structures, much to the satisfaction of clients,” says Edward B. Deutsch, the firm’s managing partner.

In the last few years, the firm has developed a variety of alternative fee arrangements, including fixed fees for counseling and litigation matters. “As a result, our clients get the best value for law firms of our size in the Northeast,” Deutsch says.

Founded in 1983, MDM&C is a full-service law firm with more than 280 attorneys. They work out of 10 offices spanning seven states: New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Delaware and Colorado. The firm’s practice areas are as diverse as its geography: litigation, labor and employment, health care, insurance, fidelity and surety, bankruptcy, construction, corporate transactions, hotels and resorts, franchise, tax, private client services, real estate, environmental, banking, and white-collar crime and corporate compliance.

Last year, the firm made a significant investment in a stand-alone unclaimed property law practice by hiring Michael Rato, a counsel in the Morristown office, whose practice concentrates almost entirely on unclaimed property law matters.

MDM&C has also taken an aggressive approach to expanding its health care practice with the addition of the attorneys of Kalison, McBride, Jackson & Robertson, P.C., effective July 1. KMJ&R brings both a statewide and national reputation in the field.

Other recent moves include a merger with Pepe & Hazard LLP, one of the most highly respected law firms in New England, and the opening of an office in Wilmington, Del., to handle the growing needs of bankruptcy and litigation clients.

The new additions swell ranks already filled with respected attorneys who routinely rank among the best in the state and country. But even as it has grown, MDM&C has not lost sight of its commitment to providing a positive work environment. “Many large law firms become impersonal, difficult places to work,” Deutsch says. “We are very proud not to have lost the heart and soul of our firm and for our staff to feel they are key players in the McElroy family.”

And the firm is equally proud to provide superior, timely and effective assistance that provides clients the advice they need to achieve their goals. “Whatever the legal or business situation,” Deutsch says, “we recognize that clients trust and appreciate lawyers who genuinely care about their problems and provide them with effective and innovative results.”

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