



Lisa Duarte

Partner | Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres

Selected as Chicago Magazine's Top 50 Most Powerful Chicagoans in 2024, Lisa Duarte has spent her career at the intersection of law and government. Prior to joining Croke Fairchild Duarte & Beres as Partner, Lisa served as the First Assistant Deputy Governor for Budget & Economy in the JB Pritzker Administration in Illinois. In this role, Lisa oversaw 17 agencies involving budget, economy, economic development, and regulation and more than 170 boards and commissions.

During her tenure Lisa led on some of the Administration's top legislative initiatives, including negotiating passage of the first gaming bill in over a decade, the passing of two balanced and bi-partisan budgets, the consolidation of more than 650 police and fire pension systems, and legislation that reduced taxes and regulatory burdens on businesses and created tax incentives for economic investments and growth.

Lisa served as the primary point of contact for the business community, and executed the Administration's priorities, including the Governor's vision of broad diversification of boards, commissions, and the overall state workforce. She also coordinated regular business recruitment calls from the Governor to companies looking to relocate or expand. Lisa also spearheaded the pursuit to secure Illinois as the relocation site for the New York Stock Exchange's primary servers.

Lisa played a lead role in the State of Illinois' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. From the original stay-at-home order of March 2020 through the distribution of the first vaccines, Lisa worked diligently to advocate for the needs of businesses and the economy while protecting the health and welfare of the residents of the State. Lisa was intimately involved in the identification of essential and non-essential businesses, the Restore Illinois Plan, as well as the tiered mitigation approach to restart the economy. Lisa's agencies oversaw the distribution of more than \$1B of CARES Act money.

Prior to joining the Pritzker administration, Lisa was a Partner in the Government Affairs practice group at a boutique Chicago law firm, where she served a diverse client base on a broad set of legislative and regulatory issues in Illinois, Chicago, and Cook County. Lisa also worked with the City of Chicago Mayor's Office where she served as Legislative Counsel to former Mayor Rahm Emanuel representing the City of Chicago before the Illinois General Assembly, state agencies, and executive offices. She then advanced to the dual role of Chief of Staff to former Deputy Mayor Steve Koch and Chief of Staff to the Mayor's Economic Council.

Lisa's opinion on current political landscapes is well respected, over the past three years she has been asked to be a political correspondent on WGN News Election Special and Fox 32 Chicago Election Day analyzing the mayoral, aldermanic, and gubernatorial races. In 2023, she also served as a moderator the mayoral debates of candidate Brandon Johnson and Paul Vallas at the DuSable Black History Museum.