

Stephen L. Palmer

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Stephen Palmer has a particular focus on the representation of high growth companies. He represents public and privately held companies in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, public offerings, private equity and venture capital, equity and debt financings, joint ventures, technology licensing, corporate governance and general corporate law. Stephen has completed dozens of public offerings, mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations, financings and joint ventures. Representative industries of companies he has represented include natural products, including natural and organic food and beverage companies; agtech; cloud computing and other technology companies; banks and fintech companies; energy companies, including renewable energy companies; biotech, life sciences and pharmaceuticals companies; digital health; specialty chemicals and industrial products companies; and direct mail/advertising.

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Stephen formerly served as General Counsel to the Massachusetts House Ways & Means Committee. Prior to law school, Stephen held positions with the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services and the Executive Office of Human Services in Boston; and the Administration for Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, in Washington, D.C.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America*® 2023 for work in Mergers and Acquisitions Law

PROFESSIONAL / CIVIC ACTIVITIES

Stephen has been active in various charitable and religious organizations. He traveled to Nepal on a short-term mission trip to work with Prison Fellowship Nepal and a Christian non-profit supporting education. He served as chairman of the audit committee and chairman of a capital campaign committee for a local church. Stephen formerly served as a director of a U.S. based cross-community program in Belfast, Northern Ireland and as a director and team leader of a non-profit organization building housing and running medical clinics for the poor in Guatemala. He also served as an advisory board member of Catholic Charities in Boston for more than 15 years.

EDUCATION

- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1983 *(Law Review: Editor in Chief, The Tax Lawyer)*
- A.B., Harvard College, 1978 *(cum laude)*

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of Massachusetts
- Supreme Court of the United States
- United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
- United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts

NEWS & EVENTS

- 16 December 2024, K&L Gates Advises Board Americas on its Acquisition of Prevedere
- 18 August 2022, More Than 350 K&L Gates Lawyers Named Among 2023 Best Lawyers in America, Ones to Watch
- 2 December 2019, K&L Gates Guides Bar Harbor Bankshares on $40 Million Debt Offering
- 15 July 2019, K&L Gates Advises Bar Harbor Bankshares on Acquisition of Regional Bank Branches
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders

OTHER MEDIA MENTIONS

- Mentioned, "Gibson Dunn, K&L Gates Lead $470M Utility Contractor Merger," *Law360*, 27 June 2022

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Private Equity Transactions
- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Consumer Goods and Services
- Digital Health
- Financial Services
- Food, Beverage, and Agribusiness
- Healthcare
- Private Equity

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mergers & Acquisitions/Recapitalizations

- Represented Board International SA and its subsidiary, Board Americas, Inc., in the acquisition of Prevedere, Inc.
- Represented Lagan Wildwood Investments LLC, a member of Boston, Massachusetts-headquartered Congress Wealth Management LLC, an SEC-registered investment advisor, in connection with the recapitalization of Congress Wealth Management LLC by Audax Private Equity.
- Represented PLH Group, Inc. in its sale to Primoris Services Corporation (NASDAQ: PRIM).
- Represented Patriot Community Bank in its acquisition via merger by 1854 Bancorp, parent company of East Cambridge Savings Bank.
- Represented PRN Software LLC d/b/a DoseSpot, a healthcare software company, in a growth capital investment by Providence Strategic Growth Capital Partners.
- Represented Cabot Corporation (NYSE: CBT) in the sale of its Purification Solutions business to One Equity Partners.
- Represented Once Upon a Farm, PBC in its acquisition of Harvest Intelligence, Inc. d/b/a Raised Real.
- Represented Bar Harbor Bank & Trust in its acquisition of bank branches from People's United Bank, National Association.
- Represented Cognition Financial Corporation in the sale of its payments subsidiary FM Systems LCL d/b/a Tuition Management Systems to Nelnet Business Solutions, Inc. a division of Nelnet, Inc. (NYSE: NNI).
- Represented WilliamsMarston LLC, an accounting and management consulting firm, in a growth capital investment by Align Capital Partners.
- Represented Vitasoy International Holdings Limited in the sale of substantially all of the assets of Vitasoy USA, Inc. to an affiliate of Pulmuone.

- Represented Advanced Instruments, Inc. in its sale to an affiliate of Windjammer Capital Investors.
- Represented Bar Harbor Bankshares in its acquisition of Lake Sunapee Bank Group.
- Represented Salem Five Bancorp in its acquisition of Georgetown Bancorp, Inc. (NASDAQ: GTWN).
- Represented Salem Five Cents Savings Bank in its purchase of Sage Bank.
- Represented a large multinational pharmaceutical company in the divestiture of certain U.S. assets.
- Represented ADVO, Inc. in its merger with Valassis Communications, Inc.
- Represented Stonyfield Farm, Inc. in its sale to Danone.
- Represented Crane Co. in its acquisition of Telequip Corporation.
- Represented large public NYSE-listed life sciences company in several acquisitions.
- Represented Kettle Cuisine, Inc. in its merger with affiliates of Arlon Food and Agricultural Partners, LP and Rabobank.
- Represented Crane Co. in its sale of assets of Powers Process Controls Ltd. and Mark Controls Corp. to Webster Valve, Inc. and Watts Industries (Canada) Incorporated.
- Represented CardScan, Inc. in its sale to Newell Rubbermaid.
- Represented Leeman Labs, Inc. in its sale to Teledyne Tekmar.
- Represented Crane Co. in its acquisition of Streamware Corporation.
- Acquistion by Stonyfield Farm, Inc. of Brown Cow West Corp.
- Represented Tea Forte in its sale to Sara Lee Corporation.
- Private equity recapitalization of Annie's Homegrown, Inc.
- Merger of Homegrown Naturals, Inc. and Annie's Homegrown, Inc.
- Acquisition by Annie's, Inc. of Fantastic Foods, Inc. and Napa Valley Kitchens, Inc.
- Acquisition by Annie's, Inc. of Annie's Enterprises, Inc. d/b/a Annie's Naturals
- Sale of Fantastic Foods, Inc. by Annie's, Inc. to United Natural Foods, Inc.

Public Offerings and Private Financings

- Represented Annie's, Inc., in its initial public offering and listing on the NYSE and a follow-on public offering.
- Represented Bar Harbor Bankshares in its fixed-to-floating rate subordinated note financing.
- Represented Northern Bancorp, Inc. in subordinated debt financings.
- Multiple preferred round financings for Stonyfield Farm, Inc.

- Equity financing for a craft beer company.
- Convertible debt and equity financings for a natural food restaurant group.

Venture Capital

- Represented Once Upon a Farm, PBC, a Delaware public benefit corporation, in multiple venture capital financings.
- Represented Kodama Systems, Inc. in its initial financing rounds.
- Represented Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Inc. in multiple venture capital financings.
- Represented TraceLink, Inc. in multiple venture capital financings.
- Venture capital financing for a beverage company.
- Venture capital financing for a snack company.

Corporate Reorganizations

- Represented Once Upon a Farm, LLC in its conversion to Once Upon a Farm, PBC, a Delaware public benefit corporation.
- Represented TraceLink, Inc. in a private tender offer.
- Represented Northern Bancorp, Inc. in a self-tender offer for privately held stock.
- Going private transaction for Annie's Homegrown, Inc.