

# RESULTS

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2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT



# RE: 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



**Like every business during the past three years, we've adapted to a new environment and take nothing for granted.**

While many things have changed, from the rise of remote and hybrid work to the use of increasingly sophisticated technology in every aspect of business,

our focus on our clients and their needs has never wavered. The strengths that made Pullman & Comley successful for more than 100 years are what maintained us through the last three: our people and our commitment to delivering responsive legal services, value, and results.

We are first and foremost problem solvers. "Pulling together, succeeding together" is more than just a firm motto, it is a reflection of our commitment to bringing the power of Pullman's teamwork to everything we do, whether it's handling a large economic development transaction with environmental complications, developing a succession plan for a family-owned business with complex tax and estate planning considerations, or helping a startup in the cannabis industry navigate the licensing process, set up their corporate structure, and acquire real estate.

The past year saw a strong period of growth as we continued to build our practice areas. We added several attorneys to our Litigation team, including our Financial Restructuring and Workouts practice, and launched a Hospitality practice to meet the growing needs of restaurants, hotels, and tourism-related businesses. In addition, we expanded our geographic footprint, adding professionals to our Springfield, Massachusetts office, growing our Fairfield County presence through expansion in Westport, and opening an office in Wakefield, Rhode Island.

In the pages that follow, we highlight these developments, as well as the results we achieved for clients. We also share some of the work done in the community, including important pro bono work for veterans, victims of domestic violence, and at-risk youth. These efforts to give back have always been at the core of who we are as a firm.

I became chair of Pullman & Comley last fall and am grateful to take on the role at a time of optimism and growth, benefiting from the strong leadership of my predecessors and the collective wisdom of our attorneys and staff. While I value our firm's legacy, I am even more proud of who we are today: evolving with our clients and the marketplace; remaining focused on service, value, and results; and ready to help our clients with whatever lies ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lee D Hoffman".

LEE D. HOFFMAN, CHAIR, PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC

# RE: BUSINESS & FINANCE

The world has redefined “Business as Usual.” Companies have faced dizzying challenges over the past several years, and our attorneys are working with clients to solve a growing list of legal, financial and operational issues across the array of industries we serve.

Our Business and Finance team advises publicly traded entities, entrepreneurs and many closely-held businesses and the individuals, families, private equity funds and venture capital groups that own them. Over the past year, we have been working with a growing number of clients in the health care and the automotive industries, as well as in the emerging recreational cannabis market in Connecticut. We continued significant work in project finance, M&A and securities law, while also advising clients on consumer privacy, accessibility and other legal issues related to ecommerce.

## MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS HIGHLIGHTS

- Represented The Torrington Water Company in its merger into a subsidiary of Eversource, a publicly traded multistate utility, with gas, electric and water operations.
- Represented Great Heights Inc., a maker of lab-grown diamonds, in its negotiations and closing on a private placement by an international strategic investor in the jewelry business.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Corporate M&A Rankings

**Team is known for:** Advises privately held companies on a range of business law needs, including notably advising on M&A and project finance. Active in both the traditional and alternative energy spaces. Noted for its expert representation of emerging companies, alongside its advice to venture capitalists and private equity funds.

- Sale to a private equity group of a New England-based client specializing in national catalogue sales of consumer products.
- Cross-border sale of the equity of a promotions and merchandizing client that has developed a unique platform for logistics for domestic and international Fortune 1000 companies.
- Purchase on behalf of an unfunded sponsor of a component metals manufacturer with three distinct plants and operations across the United States.
- Purchase of a repair and equipment leasing operation for a materials recycling operator as an add on acquisition to its New England regional recycling operations.
- Represented a Florida-based real estate company in the purchase by its senior living subsidiary of a managed residential community.



“During the recent merger between The Torrington Water Company and Aquarion Water, my attorney guided me through the process, and she made the whole experience a very positive one. She is exceptionally knowledgeable and made sure that my company was protected and that the interests of our shareholders, employees and customers were front and center.”

— Susan M. Suhanovsky,  
Former President, The Torrington Water Company



“I’ve dealt with many attorneys over my 40 year career and these folks are as good as it gets.”

— Brian Desrosier, President, Desrosier of Greenwich, Inc.



#### ECOMMERCE: SELLING ONLINE LEGALLY

A strong online presence is vital to the success of almost every business today; however, virtual storefronts have increasingly become targets for fraud and potential lawsuits. Our Intellectual Property and Technology team assists clients with protecting and defending their online presence, recently addressing such issues as:

- Online trolls attempting to impersonate websites and scam customers
- Data scraping from websites
- Plaintiffs’ lawyers using technical violations of copyright or accessibility to seek monetary compensation
- Regulators’ review of websites for non-compliance with privacy and data security laws

#### SECURITIES LAW

The breadth of our representation of regulated companies in the securities industry continued to expand over the past year, and we expect that the recently enacted Consolidations Appropriations Act of 2023 will drive additional activity.

Highlights this year have been diverse, including:

- Representing a proxy solicitation and advisory proxy firm in its migration to a new platform designed to expand its substantial service offering.
- Advising private funds and advisors on their compliance needs, particularly in working with the Connecticut Department of Banking.
- Advising private companies in multiple debt and equity offerings under the Regulation D safe harbor.
- Representing numerous managers, registered representatives and investment advisors in finding new niches for their operations and finding business partners for succession and expansion opportunities.

#### COMMERCIAL FINANCE

In a challenging market, our attorneys have been working with our commercial lending clients to come up with creative ways to finance projects, including those in the areas of health care, automotive, real estate and other industries. We also regularly represent business owners as borrower’s counsel, helping our clients obtain financing for acquisitions, expansion or general working capital needs.

# RE: AUTOMOTIVE

Pullman's attorneys understand the gamut of regulatory, business and legal issues facing automotive dealers and provide valuable counsel to help these businesses run smoothly and avoid legal claims.

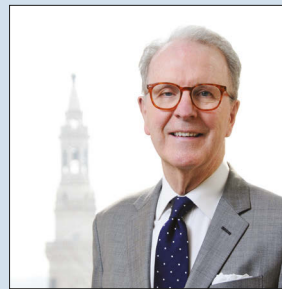
Given the rise in sales and customer interactions handled online, our attorneys have handled numerous consumer litigation matters related to website advertising, disclaimers and essential disclosures.

We also helped clients avoid expensive litigation by providing guidance on website accessibility and compliance, arbitration agreements and consumer notification of add on costs in contracts.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- Represented dealerships in responding to state and federal government investigations and defended dealerships against a variety of consumer claims.
- Helped clients navigate environmental compliance rules and regulations as they invest in building new franchisor mandated facilities, upgrades and the build out of electric vehicle charging platforms.
- Negotiated and revised plan documents for a dealer, including pressing vendor compliance with the U.S. Department of Labor's cybersecurity guidance for retirement plan service providers.
- Conducted training programs on a range of workplace topics and provided counseling on Family Medical Leave Act and disability-related issues.

## Springfield, MA Office Expands with the Addition of James F. Martin



Jim Martin, a leader in the legal and business community in western Massachusetts, joined the firm's Springfield, Massachusetts office in 2022. Jim has more than 40 years of experience practicing in the areas of corporate and business counseling, commercial real estate, real estate planning and

permitting, solar and wind, and litigation. He is also recognized as a leading automotive franchise attorney throughout New England. He has handled the purchase and sale of numerous car dealerships and related real estate, in addition to litigation arising from the operation of a dealership.

Jim received his B.A. from Georgetown University and his J.D. from Georgetown University Law Center, and is admitted to the Massachusetts Bar, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. District Court and the Massachusetts and U.S. Tax Court.

The addition of Jim and two administrative staff members marks a noteworthy expansion for Pullman's Springfield office, which specializes in commercial property tax appeals and eminent domain, employment law, corporate and real estate matters.

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“Our attorney has represented Suburban Subaru for nearly a quarter of a century. He possesses valuable skills and expertise in all matters of the law, as well as keen knowledge of the automobile business. His no-nonsense, direct and common sense approach to our legal needs is consistent with our business operations. I am proud to call him my friend.”

— Peter Krause, President, Suburban Subaru, Inc.

# RE: HEALTH CARE

Our attorneys continue to represent clients in emerging sectors of health care, including a national medical device maker engaged in the dynamic area of remote patient monitoring and a mental health provider involved in the emerging science of MDMA and psychedelic drug-assisted therapies. We also represented practice groups and hospitals in more traditional health care matters.

Pullman's Health Care attorneys are recognized as the regulatory health law practice of choice due to the rigor of our analysis, relationships with state and federal agencies and years of practice experience rendering practical advice.

As state and federal enforcement of antitrust law has once again become a major concern for health care clients interested in mergers and acquisitions, over the past year we counselled several providers on the likely headwinds they would face in forming affiliations with rival companies. We were also one of the first firms in Connecticut to focus on the interplay of the federal No Surprises Act and existing state law and regulations related to price transparency.



**“Extremely knowledgeable, professional, and prompt. I was able to concentrate on the business elements knowing the complex legal issues were in good hands.”**

— Dr. Richard Fichman, SightMD Connecticut

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Advised a leading national provider of digital health technology on Anti-Kickback and Stark Law compliance on independent contractor sales arrangements.
- Represented a large orthopaedics and rheumatology group in connection with a strategic “merger of equals” with two other orthopaedic and sports medicine practices in the Northeast.
- Guided several M&A clients efficiently through federal and state change of ownership process, including ways to avoid payment disruptions and, where appropriate, the time consuming and unpredictable Certificate of Need process.
- Negotiated favorable settlements of Medicare and Medicaid compliance audits with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and Connecticut Department of Social Services.
- Represented one of the largest anesthesia groups in the Northeast in its sale to a NYSE-listed healthcare company.
- Advised a physician-owned holding company and the large multi-specialty group practice with which it is affiliated on securing the financing necessary to repurchase an ambulatory surgery center from a publicly traded owner/operator of the facility.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Health Care Rankings

**Team is known for:** Extensive experience handling complex transactions in the healthcare and pharmaceutical sectors, which includes advising on acquisitions and joint ventures, as well as negotiating hospital affiliation agreements. Also offers expertise in governmental audits and regulatory compliance.

# RE: CANNABIS

With the legalization of recreational cannabis sales in Connecticut, our Cannabis team has been a leader in helping clients obtain licenses for operation and continues to advise dozens of cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs on a multitude of matters, ranging from regulatory compliance, business formation, real estate acquisition, zoning and leasing, to acquisitions, mergers and sales, and equity investments and corporate structuring.

We have advocated for our clients as they obtain licenses and move to new facilities to accommodate expanding customer volume for adult use recreational sales. We've also assisted Social Equity Applicants and existing license holders as they create Social Equity joint ventures across Connecticut.

#### HIGHLIGHTS:

- We represented Caring Nature, LLC, a Connecticut licensed medical marijuana retailer, in an equity sale to a subsidiary of Verano Holdings Corp., a British Columbia corporation listed on the Canadian stock exchange.
- Our attorneys have provided advice relating to the state and local approvals and permitting of hybrid and adult-use cannabis facilities, including arranging and attending meetings with local officials, researching specific municipal zoning regulations, and providing suggested zoning regulations to municipal officials and negotiating local zoning text amendments.



Andrew Glassman, chair of Pullman's Cannabis, CBD and Hemp practice, was named the "2022 Attorney of the Year" by the Connecticut Cannabis Chamber of Commerce. The firm's Cannabis team has guided and continues to advise dozens of cannabis businesses and entrepreneurs.

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**“Expanding our cannabis business in Connecticut was a high priority for Trulieve. The Pullman team provided us with the insight we needed to navigate the process. Their clear skill in communicating our needs and concerns to the various regulatory authorities enabled us to successfully move our operations to a more modern, state of the art facility and to provide a greatly enhanced retail experience to our customers in Connecticut.”**

—Nicole Stanton, Vice President & General Counsel, Trulieve



# RE: INDIVIDUAL CLIENTS

Pullman's experienced team of attorneys understands that representing individuals in family law and trusts and estates matters requires not only an extensive knowledge of the law, but also considerable forethought and a personal approach.

## WELCOME TO THE FIRM



Sebastian D'Acunto counsels clients in general estate planning and business succession planning and helps navigate the probate court process in settling decedents' estates and in administering various types of trusts. Seby has years of experience working with individuals and

their families on effective strategies to govern and preserve assets. He has also represented clients in a broad range of corporate and business transactions and real estate matters. Seby received his B.A. from Central Connecticut State University and his J.D. and ABA-approved International Law Certificate from Pace University School of Law.



## TRUSTS AND ESTATES

With the growth of our attorney team in Fairfield County, our clients have a choice of accomplished attorneys throughout the state to work with based on their individual circumstances and unique planning goals.

Our priority continues to be responding to client needs – informing them about recent law changes and how to best craft or adapt their plans to preserve wealth during the client's lifetime. Our clients include both traditional and non-traditional families, executives of some of the nation's top companies, entrepreneurs and professionals. From wills and revocable living trusts to irrevocable trusts, transfer of businesses to family members, family limited partnerships and private foundations, we collaborate with our clients and their other advisors to address concerns and needs.

## FAMILY LAW

Pullman & Comley's Family Law team works closely with our clients, offering the attentiveness of a boutique family law practice with the added resources of a full-service firm.

In cases of divorce, we strive to achieve the most efficient dissolution of a marriage possible by reaching a settlement at an early stage, preserving assets, minimizing the emotional burden, and limiting the negative impacts on any children involved. We are also experienced in drafting prenuptial and postnuptial agreements to manage family wealth and business interests, and take into account the complex details of the parties' financial, business, estate planning, and personal situations.

Members of our Family Law practice are also skilled appellate attorneys and in 2022, secured wins in the Appellate Court resulting in significant monetary rewards to our clients.

# RE: LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT

During the past year, our Labor and Employment attorneys counseled clients on a host of emerging workplace issues, including prevailing wages in the renewable energy industry, wage classifications and layoffs in the tech industry, and restrictive covenants in the financial services industry.

Representing public and private employers of all sizes in state and federal courts in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New York and Rhode Island, our team assisted clients in developing and administering practices and procedures to address the significant changes resulting from Connecticut's new Family Medical Leave laws, as well as matters involving excessive absenteeism, mental health and other disability-related issues.

## EMPLOYMENT TRAINING WORKSHOPS

Our Labor and Employment attorneys conduct training programs for managers and other employees on leave issues, harassment prevention, equity and inclusion, discipline, effective interpersonal communications and other workplace topics. Each workshop addresses an organization's unique needs and provides economical and practical solutions for operating a business and mitigating lawsuits. A full menu of our training programs can be found at: <https://www.pullcom.com/practices-laboremploymentlawandemployeebenefits#Training-Workshops>.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Labor & Employment Rankings

**Team is known for:** A robust practice with strength in depth across the labor and employment space in Connecticut. Handles a variety of contentious and noncontentious matters for a range of public and private sector clients and offers particular experience in the representation of entities from the education and local government sectors. Also advises on employee benefits matters.



**“Our Pullman attorney is a leader in our contract negotiations process and ensures that we remain compliant with current laws. He provides guidance and support with employment issues related to all of our employee classifications and is able to present a concrete plan and address the big picture while also anticipating other scenarios/issues that could arise.”**

— Nancy Conti, HR Manager, Boyd (Woburn) Corp.

## EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

With our attorneys' assistance, employers modified their benefits plans to address shifting workforce expectations, enhanced retirement benefits and changes in healthcare costs. We recently worked with clients on:

- Assisting employers with benefits-related concerns stemming from workforce shortages, including amending retirement plans to allow for in-service receipt of benefits for employees who have attained their normal retirement age.
- Amending 401(k) plans to allow for an employer “matching” contribution for employees who make payments on their student loans.
- Offering employees an individual coverage HRA option to help contain rising health insurance costs.
- Adding automatic enrollment and automatic salary deferral escalation features to 401(k) plans.

# FIRM LAUNCHES HOSPITALITY LAW PRACTICE

In a climate of increasingly complex workplace regulations, Pullman's new Hospitality practice addresses the needs of Connecticut's restaurants, hotels and tourism-related enterprises so they can focus on serving their customers and growing their businesses.

Our clients come to our multidisciplinary team for assistance on diverse matters, including labor and employment issues, complex regulatory proceedings, the acquisition or sale of liquor licenses, and a full range of litigation matters. We also help secure financing, acquire or sell assets, review commercial leases and related transactions, and negotiate and enforce franchise agreements.



**“Pullman & Comley’s Hospitality group is an invaluable resource for our association and the thousands of businesses we represent. In addition to world-class legal advice, we rely on Pullman for strategic guidance and advocacy. We know we can trust them to care about our issues, and to work tirelessly on our behalf.”**

— Scott Dolch, President & CEO,  
Connecticut Restaurant Association



## WELCOME TO THE FIRM

Ryan O'Donnell focuses his practice on the representation of management in labor and employment matters in the restaurant and hospitality industries and chairs our Hospitality Law practice.

Ryan serves as counsel to both the Connecticut Restaurant Association and the Connecticut Lodging Association. A trusted source of guidance and advocacy for the hospitality industry, Ryan has garnered considerable recognition from clients, including being named the Connecticut Restaurant Association's 2021 "Vendor of the Year." Ryan received his B.A. from the College of the Holy Cross and his J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law.

## EDUCATION LAW

Pullman & Comley's work with educational institutions extends beyond K-12 classrooms to the campuses of public and independent schools, colleges and universities. Over the past year, some of the highlights included negotiating new statewide successor collective bargaining agreements with state technical school system teachers and administrators and investigating, on behalf of university clients, Title IX and other discrimination claims brought by students against university personnel and fellow students.

To assist institutions that confront issues of sexual gender-based harassment in both student and employment matters, our Education Law attorneys recently launched the TITLE IX on the NINES webinar series that occurs on the 9th of every month at 9:00 a.m. and is designed to keep Title IX coordinators, investigators and administrators abreast of the latest developments in Title IX.

# RE: PUBLIC FINANCE

Serving as legal counsel to the public and private sector, our Public Finance attorneys are problem solvers who possess a deep understanding of each client's needs, the development potential for every project and the use of public funds to build and improve public infrastructure.

Over the past year, our attorneys have worked with public clients who, when faced with inflation and reduced budgets, refinanced projects at an increasing rate and utilized Tax Increment Financing for development projects and public-private partnerships.

We continue to advise our public clients on financing for a growing number of multi-family housing transactions, school construction projects and health facilities. We also monitor the developments and opportunities in Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) focused projects and their related credit risks and impacts.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- With our assistance, the East Hartford Housing Authority issued bonds for the reconstruction of a 396-unit multifamily housing project for low and moderate income families. The project was also financed with low income housing tax credits and loans from the developer and the equity provider.
- We served as bond counsel to the City of Norwich on its first tranche of bonds for a \$385 million school construction program, which includes the consolidation of the school district's seven elementary schools into four new, larger schools.
- We served as bond counsel to the State of Connecticut Health and Educational Facilities Authority on its \$28,390,000 Revenue Bonds for Fairfield University, which enabled the university to finance the costs of the design, construction, equipping and furnishing of a new 200-bed residence hall building and construction of a 440-space parking garage.

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**“Pullman & Comley’s Public Finance team shepherded us through the bond referendum process; including the provision of training to local officials on referendum advocacy rules. Any questions we had were answered quickly and thoroughly.”**

—Joshua Pothier, Comptroller, City of Norwich

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

**Pullman & Comley ranked first for Connecticut bond counsel in *Bond Buyer’s* Yearend Review, published in March 2021, 2022 and 2023. Over the last 10 years, national publication *The Bond Buyer* has consistently ranked Pullman & Comley within the top five bond counsel firms in the state of Connecticut by dollar volume.**

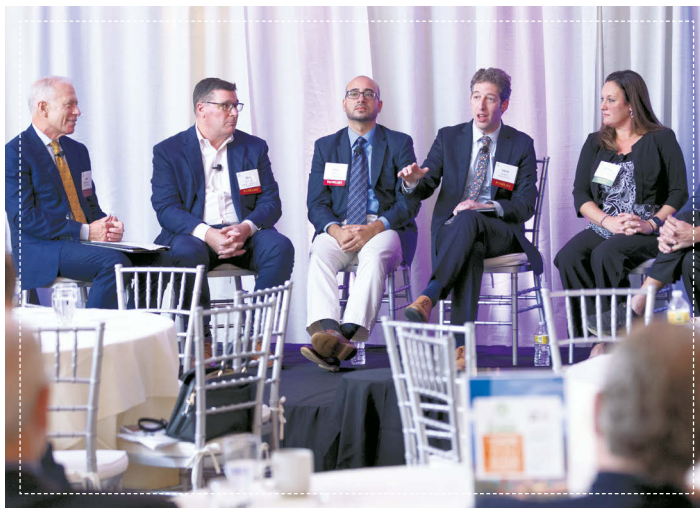


# RE: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Our multi-disciplinary team of attorneys works with public and private entities investing in our communities and driving economic growth. We are widely recognized as leaders in tax credit, tax increment, and public-private-partnership financings. We have represented both the public sector and private sector on some of the most significant development projects in Connecticut.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- We represent the Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) in various transformative projects across downtown Hartford, including the \$66 million redevelopment of a former state office building into 160 residential apartments and approximately 20,000 square feet of commercial space and on-site parking. The project is financed by private/bank financing, \$13 million of CRDA loans, federal and state historic tax credits, and borrower equity.
- We assisted the Town of East Hartford on two major economic development projects in 2022 including the redevelopment of the former Showcase Cinema into 300 Class A market rate multi-family apartment units. We also guided the town through the state's eminent domain process to attract much needed investment to the Silver Lane area.
- We represent the preferred developer of a large residential project that will be a part of a major transit-oriented development on a brownfield site. Our attorneys have negotiated terms for acquisition of the site, developed a plan of remediation with state and federal regulators, and negotiated a set-aside for affordable units with the State Department of Economic and Community Development.



John F. Stafstrom, (far left) co-chair of Pullman's Public Finance practice, moderated the "Future of Economic Development" forum, hosted with the *Hartford Business Journal* and *New Haven Biz*, which brought together business, municipal and state leaders.

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**"In Pullman & Comley, we employed a skilled and seasoned firm in the area of eminent domain. Having Pullman & Comley guide us through a detailed and complex process was settling. In the end, East Hartford took control of a 30-year blighted property and reset the trajectory of a major community thruway thanks to the team from Pullman."**

—Mike Walsh, Mayor, Town of East Hartford

# RE: REAL ESTATE AND LAND USE

Our Real Estate and Land Use lawyers counsel municipalities, businesses and developers in responding to the recent market changes. Our lawyers have found creative solutions to help commercial property owners repurpose their properties for more financially viable uses, including mixed-use projects, industrial facilities, distribution centers and affordable housing complexes.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- We represented Bluewater Property Group, LLC, a national real estate developer and asset manager, in the acquisition and development of a 175-acre site in Waterbury and Naugatuck, Connecticut, as a state-of-the-art Amazon ecommerce distribution and fulfillment center, totaling approximately 3 million square feet.
- We represented the lender in connection with a \$50 million construction to permanent loan to build a new 6-story, 228-unit multi-family apartment complex with a 3-story parking garage on a blighted parcel in Stamford, Connecticut.
- We have been assisting the City of Waterbury in the assemblage, remediation and redevelopment of adjacent brownfield sites along the Freight Street Corridor. These highly polluted properties are at the gateway to downtown Waterbury and represent the biggest opportunity for economic development in the region.
- We represent a real estate developer on the acquisition of an underutilized and deteriorating shopping center located in one of Connecticut's major urban areas that can no longer support a traditional retail center. We have tackled challenging title issues, addressed extensive environmental regulatory issues, and helped our client repurpose the site by creating a new Industrial Commercial Overlay District that will permit small industrial, research and development and "last mile" distribution uses, in addition to retail and restaurant facilities.

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**“Pullman & Comley’s real estate, environmental and land use lawyers have represented us on our major industrial and commercial acquisitions, some of which involved properties with complicated legacy environmental issues. They are extremely capable professionals, who find practical solutions to complex problems.”**

—Jonathan Albert, Chairman and CEO, Cornerstone Realty, Inc.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Real Estate Ranking

**Team is known for:** Advises financial institutions, real estate companies and state and municipal agencies on a diverse range of real estate matters. Extensive experience handling sophisticated financing transactions, and also frequently represents both landlords and tenants in lease negotiations. Well versed in land use law, such as site planning, brownfield redevelopments and wetlands approval. Additional areas of practice include public-private partnerships and common interest communities such as condominiums and cooperatives.



# RE: ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Pullman's Energy and Environmental Law practice stands out for consistent success in helping clients address a range of issues, from energy and environmental regulatory compliance and permitting, to the many environmental aspects of real property and corporate transactions, project siting and brownfield redevelopment.

Our attorneys are working with the Connecticut Department of Energy & Environmental Protection on the significant overhaul of its remediation program and are advising clients on the impact of the anticipated changes.

We are also at the forefront of renewable energy development and energy storage systems and handle an impressive portfolio of successful energy projects that are either completed or in the process of being built, with more on the way. Additionally, we represent various companies and developers who are meeting new public outreach requirements in connection with an increased focus on environmental justice issues.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Environmental Ranking – Band 1

**Team is known for:** A strong performer across a range of matters including brownfield remediations and enforcement defense. Particular experience advising on large-scale renewable energy projects, such as solar power plants. Offers close relationships with state and federal agencies. Clients include energy companies and developers.

## HIGHLIGHTS:

- Served as environmental counsel for a 485-acre solar development, planned to be the largest of its kind in the Northeast. Construction for our client's project was unanimously approved by the Connecticut Siting Council and once completed in 2024, will include over 250,000 solar panels and provide carbon-free electricity.
- Represented a Connecticut municipality in connection with the purchase and development of an 86-acre former chemical manufacturer, a complex transaction involving shared responsibilities for post-closing remedial obligations and buy in from the state via the use of a Stewardship Permit.
- Represent a coalition of manufacturers and other industrial waste producers identified as responsible parties in connection with completing obligations at a local Superfund Site.
- Represent companies and municipalities in a variety of federal lawsuits alleging failure to comply with the Federal Clean Water Act.
- Represented independent non-utility electric companies in connection with increased scrutiny from state regulators.

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**“Pullman has been a market leading expert in energy law in Connecticut for the past seven years they have represented us. They are professional, knowledgeable and great people to work with.”**

—Jeffrey Macel, Founder and Managing Director, Lodestar Energy

# RE: LITIGATION

We are seasoned and successful trial attorneys, but trials are not always what our clients need. Often, success comes with positioning the client in litigation to win a dispositive motion. Sometimes the best way to resolve our client's dispute is to mediate it.

We have more than 30 lawyers who exclusively devote their time to litigation with years and years of combined experience and a decades-long record of litigating complex, novel and high-value matters. While our clients' approval is the most important measure of our skills, we are proud to be recognized by international, national and local rankings of distinction, including Chambers USA, Benchmark Litigation, Super Lawyers and Best Lawyers®, including numerous attorneys who were recipients of the "Lawyers of the Year" award.

## COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

- Defended client in a securities fraud action brought by individuals who invested in a company which purported to hold the publishing rights in certain lost manuscripts. The complaint raised fraud claims under the Securities Act of 1933 and state and common law. We moved to dismiss because we believed the complaint had no merit. The other defendants did so as well, but unlike them, we stayed the course. They settled. Our client did not. Instead, the plaintiffs withdrew their claim against our client without payment because of the strength of our motion.
- Represented a privately held waste disposal business who sued for damages and enforcement of a purchase agreement, but the trial court dismissed our case before trial. We appealed the decision and had it overturned by our Connecticut Appellate Court which accepted each of the three arguments we advanced on appeal.
- On behalf of an international software company, we brought a RICO and fraud case in the United States District Court in Connecticut against the company's former CEO and his co-conspirators as a result of the embezzlement of more than \$10 million. The civil action followed a criminal indictment in the Southern District of New York for wire fraud. Following the commencement of the Connecticut federal civil action, we investigated assets and brought a second action in Connecticut state court to undo fraudulent transfers and put a *lis pendens* on a high valued piece of real property.



### WELCOME TO THE FIRM

Recognized throughout the legal community for his considerable insight, knowledge and experience, **Frederic S. Ury** represents small businesses, corporations and individuals in both civil and criminal matters. A longtime resident of Westport, Fred's active roles within the community complement the firm's goals to expand our services to clients in Westport and throughout Fairfield County.

Fred has held leadership roles in the Connecticut Bar Association, the American Bar Association, and the National Conference of Bar Presidents and is heavily involved in pro bono and philanthropic activities. He received his J.D. from Suffolk University Law School in Boston and his B.S. degree, with the highest distinction, from Babson College.



“They’re 110% responsive. They have put together all types of services at lightning speed, without sacrificing accuracy.” - Litigation General Commercial client, *Best Lawyers*®

## BANKRUPTCY, WORKOUTS AND RESTRUCTURING

In today’s market, our Bankruptcy, Workouts and Restructuring team works with clients facing the highest inflation in decades; spiking interest rates that put an end to cheap financing and lenders’ willingness to forbear or extend loan maturities; supply-chain disruptions; and rising energy costs. We remain focused on the pandemic’s impact and its overall disruption to business and provide counsel to clients when financial hardships strain contractual agreements.

### HIGHLIGHTS:

- With the recent volume of large retail bankruptcies, our restructuring professionals have advised landlords of their rights and protections under the Bankruptcy Code when a commercial tenant files for bankruptcy.
- We have further assisted manufacturers in responding to a retailer’s Chapter 11, including asserting reclamation claims and negotiating trade vendor agreements.
- We have been involved in Sub-Chapter V proceedings, a relatively recent addition to the Bankruptcy Code, designed to streamline and minimize the cost of bankruptcy proceedings for small to middle market businesses.
- We are actively handling complex commercial litigation matters, including fraudulent transfer actions, and multi-million-dollar commercial foreclosure actions in state and federal court.

## HONORS & ACCOLADES

### 2022 Chambers and Partners Connecticut Litigation: General Commercial

**Team is known for:** Longstanding litigation practice capable of handling civil and criminal litigation cases in state and federal courts. Particularly active working on behalf of banking clients in matters including creditors’ rights, bankruptcy and financial restructurings. Additional areas of expertise include construction litigation, professional malpractice litigation and white-collar criminal defense. Offers expertise in alternative dispute resolution including mediation and arbitration.



### WELCOME TO THE FIRM

Kristin B. Mayhew practices in the areas of bankruptcy, corporate restructuring, creditors’ rights, workouts, and complex commercial litigation matters. She currently serves as chair of the

Executive Committee and the Public Outreach Committee of the Connecticut Bar Association’s Commercial Law and Bankruptcy Section. She is a board member of the International Women’s Insolvency and Restructuring Confederation (Connecticut Chapter), a Fellow of the Connecticut Bar Foundation, and serves on the Board of Directors for the Connecticut Chapter of the Turnaround Management Association. Kristin received her B.A. from Lafayette College and her J.D., *magna cum laude*, from the Dickinson School of Law.

“Devotion to starting AND finishing is at the top. They do the homework needed and keep the humanity throughout the entire process.”

— Litigation General Commercial client, *Best Lawyers*®

# RE: LITIGATION

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## ADR PRACTICE EXPANDS WITH ADDITION OF TWO FORMER JUDGES

Our Alternative Dispute Resolution practice has established a national reputation for its ability to identify solutions in complex multi-party matters in both state and federal courts. Led by a team of retired judges and AAA-certified attorneys who act as mediators, our ADR group is routinely retained by general counsels of corporations, health care providers, insurance companies and other national and multinational corporations.

In addition to Retired Judge Robert Holzberg, who was ranked in the 2022 Mediator's USA-Nationwide category by Chambers USA, the practice includes Retired Judge Michael Riley and has recently added Retired Judge Marshall K. Berger and Retired Judge William J. Wenzel.



**Retired Judge Marshall Berger** focuses on the mediation of land use, environmental and construction matters. He retired from the bench in 2022 after a distinguished career of more than 30 years as a Connecticut Superior Court judge. In 2012, he established the Land Use Docket, which focuses exclusively on land use and environmental cases. He received his B.A. from the University of Vermont and his J.D., with honors, from George Washington University.



**Retired Judge William Wenzel**, who was previously a member in the firm's Litigation practice for 20 years, was appointed to the Connecticut Superior Court in early 2009 and retired from the bench in June 2022. His practice at Pullman focuses on the mediation and arbitration of family law and business disputes. He received his B.A. from Colgate University and his J.D. from University of Tulsa College of Law.



**"I have been working on Wall Street since 1995 and have worked with many of the largest and most recognized law firms for over three decades. We were fortunate to find Pullman & Comley three years ago. They have assisted in employment, real estate, securities and litigation matters, and we couldn't be happier to have them in our corner and as our counsel."**

— Kurt J. Nelson, Managing Partner,  
SummerHaven Investment Management

## CONSTRUCTION

During the past year, our Construction team has represented clients in an increasing number of construction disputes. This growth has been especially significant among municipal, quasi-municipal, and quasi-state owners who, due to increased state and federal funding, have broken ground on new projects designed to fit the needs of their communities. We've also taken on an increased role working with a number of municipalities in the negotiation of terms at the outset of their engagement of contractors to mitigate potential liabilities and anticipate possible problems before they occur.

# RE: PROPERTY TAX AND VALUATION

The attorneys and paralegals in our Property Tax and Valuation practice assist the owners of and tenants in commercial properties to achieve equitable property tax assessments in Connecticut and the Northeast.

While these results are often secured through discussions with assessors and revaluation company representatives as well as appearances before local boards, our attorneys are frequently retained to pursue property tax appeals in the Connecticut courts and before the Massachusetts Appellate Tax Board.

In 2022, we had a very active docket of hearings and trials which resulted in the following noteworthy rulings for our clients:

- Reinstatement of a revoked property tax exemption for a nonprofit skilled nursing facility.
- A 22% reduction in the assessment of a memory care assisted living facility.
- A 38% reduction in the assessment of a retail plaza.
- After a lengthy trial involving a regional mall, a fair market value reduction of approximately \$60 million.
- As the result of an oral argument to the Connecticut Supreme Court, the reversal of an adverse trial court ruling concerning a matter of first impression regarding a renewable energy project.
- A 31% reduction in the valuation of a big box discount department store.
- A significant reduction in the personal property assessment of the fixtures in a retail establishment.

## For What It May Be Worth

Developments in New England Property Tax and Valuation Law Blog

Pullman & Comley's Property Tax and Valuation practice launched *For What it May Be Worth, Developments in New England Property Tax and Valuation Law* in 2022. The blog provides insight and essential information for businesses, nonprofits and individuals on commercial property tax appeals and eminent domain matters.

[www.pullcom.com/for-what-it-may-be-worth](http://www.pullcom.com/for-what-it-may-be-worth)

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**“Pullman & Comley is my “go to” firm in CT and MA. I have been working with them for 20 or so years because of their knowledge and commitment to client service and results. In fact, our collaborative success rate of achieving a reduction is 100%. Having a relationship with a firm and person that you can trust is paramount to successful appeals.”**

— Jeffrey C. Glock, CMI, Senior Director, State & Local Tax and Advisory, Altus Expert Services, Altus Group

# RE: PULLING TOGETHER/ SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

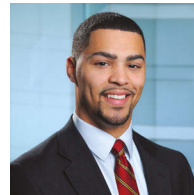
## PRO BONO MATTERS

Pullman & Comley has a longstanding commitment to serving the community and encouraging our attorneys to make pro bono service and work in the public interest an integral part of their careers. Several examples from the past year include:

- Working with the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence, our Family Law attorneys provide legal representation for victims of domestic violence and help these individuals have their voices heard in court.
- A 73-year old veteran facing eviction was assisted by a Pullman Litigation attorney who negotiated a deal to keep the veteran in his home and repay his rent arrearage over time with expected contributions from the Columbus House Veterans Services assistance program.
- For more than 10 years, one of our attorneys has assisted Central City Boxing and Barbell Club located in Springfield, Massachusetts with operational matters. The club provides structured educational-based programs to the city's at risk youth population, using boxing, weight training and overall athletic-based programs foster community and build fundamentals for future success.
- Pullman worked through the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center to represent a veteran who served two tours in Vietnam, came home with PTSD and other ailments, and was denied disability benefits from the Veterans Administration (VA). Our attorneys presented new evidence which compelled the VA to further review his case and grant the veteran a 50% disability rating, a check for his disability benefits from 2019 to the date of the decision in 2022, and monthly disability checks moving forward.

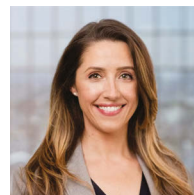
- Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services was assisted by one of Pullman's Real Estate attorneys in leasing office space in Hartford that will use the space to provide counseling and assistance to immigrants, including job placement and English as a second language courses.
- Two Family Law attorneys were selected to serve on the first-ever Connecticut Judicial Branch Civics Academy, which consists of approximately 12 judges and 12 attorneys. In collaboration with the State Department of Education and Connecticut Bar Association, the Connecticut Judicial Branch is launching the program to educate fifth-grade students about their role and responsibilities in a democratic society.

## NOTABLE ALUMNI



### ERICK RUSSELL

Our friend and former colleague, Erick Russell was sworn in as Connecticut's State Treasurer in January 2023. During his tenure at Pullman, Erick was a member of our Public Finance practice, Recruiting Committee and Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, in addition to being a recognized leader in the Connecticut community. We are proud of Erick's many accomplishments and applaud his efforts to work toward a better future for Connecticut.



### BONNIE HEIPLE

We congratulate Bonnie Heiple, a former Pullman & Comley associate and friend of the firm, on her new role as Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. While she was at Pullman, Bonnie successfully worked on the siting, permitting and financing of the first on-shore wind generation project in Connecticut.



We are pleased to welcome the next generation of attorneys and look forward to their future successes.

## WELCOME ASSOCIATES



- **Daniel R. Barrack**, Public Finance, joined Pullman following an internship in the Office of the General Counsel of an aerospace manufacturer where he worked on intellectual property and litigation matters. He received his B.S., *summa cum laude*, from University of Connecticut and his J.D., with honors, from University of Connecticut School of Law.

- **Meagan A. Cauda**, Litigation, joined Pullman following her position as a judicial law clerk for the Hon. Christine E. Keller, Associate Justice, Connecticut Supreme Court, where she researched and drafted opinions for a variety of appellate civil and criminal matters. She received her B.S., *magna cum laude*, from University of New Haven and her J.D., *summa cum laude*, from Quinnipiac University School of Law.

- **Liana Feinn**, Environmental, Real Estate and Energy, initially joined

the firm on a part time basis prior to getting her law degree. During law school, she worked as a summer intern in the Office of the Attorney General. Liana received her B.A. from Southern Connecticut State University and her J.D., with honors, from University of Connecticut School of Law.

- **Sean M. McAuliffe**, Litigation, has defended and prosecuted matters across an array of litigation practice areas, including complex tort claims in Connecticut state courts. He received his B.A. from University of Wisconsin, Madison, and his J.D., *cum laude*, from Notre Dame Law School.
- **Maria Rapp**, Labor and Employment, provides preventative counseling and labor and employment advice to employers and serves as vice chair of the firm's Hospitality practice. She received her B.S., with honors, from St. John's University and her J.D. from New York Law School.
- **Joshua S. Smith**, Business and Finance, has a diverse background working with businesses and public agencies across several areas of the law. He received his B.A. from University of California, Santa Cruz and his J.D. from Loyola Law School, Los Angeles.
- **Gwaina D. Wauldon**, Education Law, focuses her practice in education and labor law and has experience in Title IX and compliance with state and federal anti-discrimination and anti-harassment laws. Prior to Pullman, she was an attorney for the State of Connecticut Department of Education's Connecticut Technical High School and Career System. She received her B.A., *magna cum laude*, from University of Buffalo, her M.A., *summa cum laude*, from Buffalo State College, and her J.D. from University of Connecticut School of Law.

# RE: PULLING TOGETHER/ SUCCEEDING TOGETHER

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“Volunteers from Pullman & Comley were the very first members of our Colorful Crew, which has transformed how residents, workers, and visitors enjoy the Downtown’s public spaces. Each year, the work done by the dedicated team from Pullman & Comley adds vibrancy to our neighborhood, which serves a diverse tapestry of the wider Bridgeport community. We can’t thank you enough!”

— Lauren Coakley Vincent, President + CEO, Bridgeport Downtown Special Services District



## THOMAS S. LAMBERT NAMED MEMBER

Tom Lambert, who joined Pullman in 2019, represents clients in matters involving commercial litigation,

insurance coverage disputes, complex personal injury, probate disputes, transportation, municipal liability and construction. He received his J.D. from Wake Forest School of Law and his B.A. from Pepperdine University.



## LAUREN C. DAVIES NAMED COUNSEL

Lauren C. Davies, who joined Pullman in 2018, focuses on the preservation of wealth for families, estate planning,

trust and estate administration and succession planning. She received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut School of Law and her B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania.



To celebrate and honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in 2023, Pullman & Comley participated in a day of service at Connecticut Foodshare’s Wallingford facility, processing over five tons of food, which will provide more than 8,900 meals for those in need.



Pullman & Comley continued our Thanksgiving tradition by celebrating the firm’s 49th anniversary of the Animosity Bowl, a friendly football game between colleagues. The Associates were victorious, beating the Members 28-13, and redeemed themselves after last year’s loss.



Pullman & Comley is a longtime member of the Law Firm Alliance (LFA), a highly selective network of mid-sized law firms in North America, South America, Europe and Asia. Membership is offered on an invitation-only basis, and firms are selected based on peer and client recommendations, service offerings, and high ethical standards.

The firms in the Law Firm Alliance are allied by the common goal of serving every client's needs while retaining the values, service commitment and culture that distinguish mid-sized firms. There are nearly 60 firms and more than 3,000 LFA members who collaborate to share knowledge, experience and jurisdictional expertise that benefit their individual practices and clients.

Pullman's partnership with the Law Firm Alliance enables us to provide our clients with access to high quality and cost-effective legal services in jurisdictions worldwide. Members of the LFA meet in person twice a year and virtually multiple times a month through practice-specific and administrator "Communities." Over the past few years, these Communities have grown in significance and number, as they have provided an important sounding board and resource as we and our clients respond to ongoing global challenges. We have cultivated relationships with both national and international firms and are consequently able to connect and collaborate with specialists in both the area of practice and location that the counsel is needed.

For more information, contact us or visit [www.lawfirmalliance.org](http://www.lawfirmalliance.org).

## LOCATIONS

### BRIDGEPORT

850 Main Street  
P.O. Box 7006  
Bridgeport, CT  
06601-7006  
203.330.2000

### HARTFORD

90 State House Square  
Hartford, CT  
06103-3702  
860.424.4300

### SPRINGFIELD

1500 Main Street  
Tower Square  
Springfield, MA 01115  
413.314.6160

### WAKEFIELD

336 Main Street  
2nd Floor, Suite #5B  
Wakefield, RI 02879  
401.360.1533

### WATERBURY

255 Bank Street  
Suite 2B  
Waterbury, CT  
06702-2219  
203.573.9700

### WESTPORT

253 Post Road West  
P.O. Box 3179  
Westport, CT  
06880-8180  
203.254.5000

### WHITE PLAINS

777 Westchester Avenue  
White Plains, NY  
10604-3520  
914.705.5355

## PRACTICES & INDUSTRY GROUPS

### ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION

### AUTOMOTIVE DEALERS

### BANKRUPTCY, CREDITORS' RIGHTS AND FINANCIAL RESTRUCTURING

### BUSINESS AND FINANCE

Banking  
Commercial Finance  
Emerging Business and  
Venture Capital  
Market Research  
Marketing, Advertising and  
Entertainment  
Mergers and Acquisitions  
Private Equity  
Securities and Antitrust  
Tax

### CANNABIS, CBD AND HEMP

### CONDOMINIUMS, RESIDENTIAL ASSOCIATIONS AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

### EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

Colleges, Universities and  
Independent Schools  
School Law  
Title IX Investigations  
and Compliance

### ENERGY, REGULATORY AND COMMUNICATIONS

Alternative Energy  
Energy Procurement and Use  
Power Development  
Telecommunications  
Utilities  
Water

### ENVIRONMENTAL LAW

Brownfield Redevelopment  
Dam and Water Impoundment  
Assistance  
Environmental Litigation

### FAMILY LAW

Collaborative Divorce  
Custody, Parenting and  
Relocation Litigation  
Family Law Appellate  
Family Law Litigation  
Pre/Postnuptial Agreements

### HEALTH CARE

Biotechnology, Pharmaceutical  
and Life Science  
Compliance and Risk  
Management Services  
Hospitals and Health Care  
Institutions  
Physicians and Other Health  
Care Practitioners

### HOSPITALITY

### INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND TECHNOLOGY

### INVESTIGATIONS

### LABOR, EMPLOYMENT LAW AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Counseling, Training  
and Litigation  
Employee Benefits  
Public and Private Union-  
Management Relations

### LITIGATION

Antitrust Litigation  
Appellate  
Business Disputes  
Class Action  
Construction  
Insurance  
Privacy and Data Security  
Probate Litigation  
Professional Liability  
Real Estate Litigation  
Securities Litigation

### MUNICIPAL LAW

Town Governments,  
Departments and Authorities

### NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

### OPPORTUNITY ZONES

### PROPERTY TAX AND VALUATION

Eminent Domain

### PUBLIC FINANCE

Government Financing  
Public/Private Development  
Financing  
Tax Credit Financing  
Underwriter, Credit Enhancer  
and Trustee Representation

### REAL ESTATE

Land Use  
Real Estate Acquisitions  
and Sales  
Real Estate Finance  
Real Estate Leasing  
Residential, Commercial and  
Community Development  
Projects

### TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Estate Planning  
Probate and Estate  
Administration  
Probate Disputes  
Trust Administration