What we learned in 1919 remains true in 2019 –
good people providing the highest quality of service to good clients are the keys to success.
One hundred years ago, John S. Pullman, Arthur M. Comley and William H. Comley joined forces. World War I was just ending, no one really knew what lay ahead for America, and the three attorneys thought they might be able to make a go of it. Little did they know that their small firm would grow fifty fold and survive world wars, depressions, recessions, new deals, old deals, and every other peak and valley that would come along over the next hundred years. But we have. We have because what we learned in 1919 remains true in 2019 – good people providing the highest quality of service to good clients are the keys to success. Yes, technology has opened the doors to a wealth of knowledge far beyond the books in John Pullman’s office and made the delivery of legal services almost instantaneous, far superior to the handwritten letter mailed by William Comley with a 2¢ stamp. But, the fundamentals haven’t changed. Hire the best and serve the best and you will flourish.

In this annual report we decided to celebrate just some of the clients, non-profit organizations and employees who have contributed to our success. We are proud that we are able to represent such fine institutions and to help such worthy causes. We are especially proud of our professional family. These are just some of the stories that exemplify our motto: Pulling Together, Succeeding Together.

To all of our clients, thank you for the continued trust you have put in Pullman & Comley, LLC over the last 100 years. We look forward to the next century. And to all of my colleagues, past and present, thank you for making our firm such a special place to work.

JAMES T. SHEARIN
CHAIRMAN
PULLMAN & COMLEY, LLC
Since its founding more than 175 years ago, People’s United Bank has focused on serving its customers and contributing to the communities in which it operates. From a single branch in Bridgeport, Connecticut, the bank has become a $44 billion full-service, regional bank, with nearly 400 branches and more than 5,000 employees spread across six states, from New York to Maine. During the last 100 years, Pullman & Comley has represented the bank and been a key partner in its growth. The firm has played an integral role in supporting the bank’s growth, providing mastery and counsel concerning acquisitions, geographic expansion and entry into...
new business lines. The firm represented the bank in its first major bank acquisition in 1975, as well as in the many acquisitions that followed. It has also represented People’s in its entry and exit from the credit card business; the development of the bank’s trust department and discount brokerage business; the creation of the bank’s IRA and pension plan programs; the development of its consumer financing business and, perhaps most importantly, the conversion from a mutual savings bank to a publicly held, full service commercial bank.

Today, Pullman & Comley represents People’s in a broad variety of service areas including commercial real estate and commercial loan transactions; consumer lending transactions; investment, securities and environmental law; general corporate matters; compliance with ERISA and other complex employment and employee benefits rules and regulations; and litigation, to name a few.

“We at People’s consider Pullman & Comley’s attorneys subject matter experts who understand our business and the needs of the markets in which we operate,” says Jack Barnes, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, People’s United Bank, N.A. and People’s United Financial, Inc. “They provide comprehensive and sophisticated legal advice. But just as importantly, they take the time to listen to us and to identify practical, business-oriented solutions.”

Megan Y. Carannante

MEMBER

Since joining P&C as a summer associate in 2005, Megan has been in continuous motion. Recently named a member in the Labor and Employment and Litigation practices, Megan is also a mother of three young children. She attributes her ability to manage her varying responsibilities to her “incredible P & C mentors” who consistently support her both personally and professionally. In particular, Megan is grateful to the firm for its flexibility and unwavering commitment to helping her succeed.
“Pullman & Comley shines in their understanding of our business and the practical realities we confront. Those attributes combined with their commitment to diversity and inclusion, make Pullman & Comley a critical ‘go-to’ law firm.”

Yale New Haven Health is Connecticut’s leading health care system, consisting of Bridgeport, Greenwich, Lawrence + Memorial, Yale New Haven and Westerly hospitals, and Northeast Medical Group, a physician foundation of primary care providers and medical specialists.

With more than 25,000 employees and ranked among the best hospitals in the United States by U.S. News and World Report, Yale New Haven Health is committed to enhancing the lives of the people it serves by providing access to high value, patient-centered care in collaboration with those who share its values. Pullman & Comley is one of those valued partners.
Pullman & Comley began representing Bridgeport Hospital 50 years ago, and when Bridgeport Hospital became the first community hospital to join Yale New Haven Health in 1996, it was natural for that relationship to continue.

As Bridgeport Hospital and Yale New Haven Health have grown and transformed, they have called upon Pullman attorneys to provide guidance and help navigate the complexities of the many federal, state and municipal laws affecting health care providers. Whether negotiating a complex financing transaction to launch the state-of-the-art Park Avenue Medical Center in Trumbull, advising on critical employment litigation matters, or representing hospitals in conservatorship proceedings in probate court, Pullman & Comley has provided sound, practical legal counsel.

Just as important as the substantive legal skills of their attorneys, Pullman shares Yale New Haven Health’s commitment to diversity and inclusion. For several years, Pullman & Comley and Yale New Haven Health have partnered to improve the pipeline of diverse attorneys by offering a summer internship program for diverse first year law students. Pullman & Comley attorneys also have been an integral part of other Yale New Haven Health supplier diversity initiatives.

Nancy A. D. Hancock
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER

Nancy appreciates the firm’s deep culture of respect for the individual. For her, this has included a consistent commitment to empowering able associates, by allowing them to work closely with clients from their earliest days at the firm. She feels it provided her with the foundations for a career rich with opportunities. “Long before it was vogue, Pullman embraced the fact that talented attorneys and staff come in different packages,” Nancy said. “My mentors, Dave Jackson, Grove Stoddard and Sam Gilliland, embodied treating others as they would have liked to have been treated, setting a tone at the top that has reverberated throughout the firm.”
he recent transformation that’s taken place at blum goes far beyond its new logo and corporate tagline. As the largest regional accounting, tax and advisory firm based in New England, blum differentiates itself by living the values of the firm and applying them to servicing their clients. blum’s service model starts with understanding what success and satisfaction mean to each of its clients and then commits itself to delivering expert teams who invest themselves in their clients’ future. “At blum, we help our clients create what’s next by providing them a solid platform to imagine the possibilities. Pullman helps us achieve that.” Since 2006, Pullman & Comley has provided blum with practical legal advice on the laws and regulations affecting merger and acquisition activities, personnel issues, and the Internal Revenue Code. The shared goals of both organizations to build lasting partnerships with clients by having a deep understanding of their business and an investment in their success has created a solid foundation for our own partnership that will endure well into the future.

“Our clients benefit most when we proactively bring them ideas to optimize opportunities or address unforeseen issues. With Pullman & Comley, we have a partner who does the same.”
“We are in a complex and changing industry with a lot of rules. We need good governance to ensure that all shareholders are satisfied with the company’s operations. That will always require good legal counsel.”

As Santa Energy nears its 80th year of operation, it celebrates a rich history and transformation from its start in 1940 as a one-truck kerosene delivery service in Stratford. Headquartered in Bridgeport since 1959, Santa is now a major regional energy supplier that services residential, commercial and wholesale customers.

Tom Santa, a third generation employee and grandson of founders Stephen and Madelyn Santa, joined the company in 1982 and has been President and CEO since 2004. Although the workforce has grown to nearly 200 employees, Tom’s family members – including three uncles, two cousins and two sons – are actively involved in the outfit, beating the odds as a family business to carry into the third and fourth generations of operation.

Pullman & Comley has worked with Santa on many fronts over the years, ranging from assistance on real estate and environmental matters to acting as general corporate and financing counsel, supporting the company’s continued expansion to diversify energy services across the Northeast. Perhaps most importantly, we have helped create an ownership structure that allows for the perpetuation of the family business. The continued growth of the company enables it to carry forth a tradition begun by Tom’s grandparents, of being a good corporate citizen that demonstrates generosity, philanthropic investment and charitable kindness in the communities where Santa customers live.
The Capital Region Development Authority (CRDA) has delivered dramatic change to the Capital City during the past five years, rehabilitating nearly one dozen aging office buildings into nearly 1,500 units of housing. Since CRDA’s beginnings, the quasi-public agency’s mission to manage Hartford’s economic development initiatives by identifying and structuring loans, equity and tax credits, has evolved as the CRDA has taken on more of a property co-developer and manager role, and expanded to assist neighboring communities in the Greater Hartford region. One of its most significant accomplishments has been transforming the image of Hartford from “a city on the edge” into a vital place to live, work and play.

“Our most complex matters involve a number of layered funding sources. We need partners like Pullman, who can navigate federal and state laws and use creativity and practicality to close the deals.”

CLIENT PROFILE:
Capital Region Development Authority

CLIENT CONTACTS:
Suzanne Hopgood
CHAIRWOMAN, CRDA

Michael Freimuth
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CRDA
CRDA deals tend to be challenging given the involvement of multiple parties from both the private and public sector in each transaction. For many of the most complex projects, CRDA has partnered with Pullman & Comley on the financing of construction renovations and conversion projects that require an extraordinary level of analysis and involve various funding sources. Our partnership takes into consideration the unique features of each transaction and provides creative solutions for various real estate and environmental issues, multiple public and private financing sources as well as tax credit financing transactions. In addition, Pullman provides an analysis of the legal structure of the proposed financing in order to allow the developer to take advantage of available tax credits, which are critical to the success of many developments within the city.

Recent projects include the financing for the “North Armory” building at the Colt complex to provide additional residential housing and ground floor retail space, as well as financing for the redevelopment and renovation of two vacant buildings in the heart of the city, which will add more than 250 apartments and over 13,000 square feet of commercial space to this long-neglected site. We look forward to teaming with CRDA as it pursues new initiatives within Hartford and throughout the State of Connecticut.

Elliott B. Pollack
Member

In 1994, Elliott withdrew from the firm that bore his name and, together with seven attorneys and staff, opened Pullman & Comley’s Hartford office. Reflecting on more than 50 years of experience practicing law, Elliott appreciates Pullman & Comley’s ability to foster a tone and culture that differentiates it from other law firms. “People have an appreciation of the firm as an institution, rather than just a group of individuals. There’s a tremendous sense of camaraderie that exists here. We have personal connections not seen elsewhere.”
As the leading offshore wind developer in the U.S., Deepwater Wind serves multiple East Coast markets and has won the first competitive auction for offshore wind sites held by the U.S. government. Equally important to Deepwater Wind as its successes is the ethos that guides its U.S.-based management team to “first seek to understand, then seek to be understood.” Central to every project is the understanding that the end result will ultimately affect people. Our relationship with Deepwater Wind began during the initial stages of developing a 26-megawatt solar farm in Simsbury, Connecticut. Pullman & Comley assisted in the permitting and siting of the solar generation facility and represented Deepwater Wind and project-specific
affiliate entities in connection with filing an application with the Connecticut Siting Council for the Simsbury project. Although the project initially was met with resistance, Pullman’s clear knowledge base and ingenuity in all areas of the engagement, particularly in environmental permitting, eventually resulted in the unanimous approval of the project by the Siting Council. Pullman & Comley appreciates Deepwater Wind’s commitment to being a good neighbor and supports its efforts to integrate its wind projects into local communities.

Less than two years since Deepwater Wind’s Block Island Wind Farm – America’s first offshore wind project – began operating, the company is moving forward with Revolution Wind, a next generation 200-megawatt offshore wind farm that will be located in federal waters 50 miles from New London, Connecticut. The project will help Connecticut meet its renewable energy goals affordably, and will deliver clean energy to Connecticut utilities during peak hours of demand. Once again, Pullman & Comley will be there to help advance the permitting and policy phases of this innovative offshore wind solution.

Jenny Pawlus
LEGAL ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Jenny has played an integral role in building an enriching work environment in the Hartford office, and in doing so has enjoyed a career in which co-workers feel more like family members. Jenny has organized numerous charitable and team building activities, citing the employee art show and Adopt-a-Family fundraisers among her favorites. She also recalls how the halls of the Hartford office were lined with donations after Katrina. “Pullman & Comley truly pulls together to help others. Everyone is extremely charitable; we’re always striving to do more.”
Since Marty joined Pullman & Comley in 1991, he has seen a strong period of growth as the firm has evolved to meet the needs of an increasingly sophisticated marketplace, adding professional teams to support more than 90 attorneys. But while the business operations have grown, he says the key to continued success has been in maintaining the firm’s culture and sense of family. “We are not just colleagues, but friends, and truly enjoy working together and supporting one another – and that shows in the quality of our work, and the longevity of our staff.”

We all work better when we are supported by people whom we can rely upon. For the past 43 years until the day she retired, that support came from Ann and the Work Center she managed. As the first Pullman employee to have an electronic typewriter, Ann consistently provided critical support and patiently ensured that our documents were produced and delivered in a flawless manner. Although technology has dramatically changed over the years, Ann said “the feeling that I have always been appreciated and a part of the Pullman team” has remained constant.
“We probably wouldn’t have succeeded without our attorney’s support and help. Our rapport with Pullman vetted us for a productive relationship with the State and validated us as a quality candidate.”

In 2012, Connecticut legalized the production and distribution of medical marijuana (MMJ) to registered patients. Since then, Pullman & Comley attorneys have assisted the businesses that grow, dispense and provide testing services for this limited-use drug, including Advanced Grow Labs, a research and production facility in West Haven. Advanced Grow Labs was among the first producers of MMJ in Connecticut and its products are mandated by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection to be laboratory tested to determine potency levels and ensure they are contaminant free.

Pullman & Comley worked with Advanced Grow through DCP’s application and approval process and has continued to represent it with its expansion plans, including the recent approval of a dispensary license for Bluepoint Wellness in Westport, which is one of nine new MMJ dispensaries in Connecticut. The approval also makes Advanced Grow Labs the first company to hold licenses both to produce and dispense medical marijuana in Connecticut.

With more than 30,000 registered MMJ patients in the state and growing weekly, there will be an increasing need for medicine that improves the quality of patients’ lives. Advanced Grow Labs strives to produce those products in formats - ranging from capsules, cartridges, lotions, sprays and edibles - that work best for the patient.

CLIENT PROFILE: Advanced Grow Labs

CLIENT CONTACT: David Lipton
CEO, ADVANCED GROW LABS
Lambda Legal is the premiere LGBTQ civil rights organization in the country committed to achieving full equality for LGBTQ individuals and everyone living with HIV through impact litigation and advocacy. Lambda Legal’s story began in 1973 with a small band of lawyers that has now grown to an expert staff of more than 100 in six U.S. offices. Lambda Legal has spearheaded many of the most important court decisions affirming LGBTQ persons’ equal rights in personal and family relationships, employment and housing.

Pullman & Comley has been a proud supporter of the organization and its mission since 2003. One of our members now serves as one of two vice chairs on Lambda’s National Board of Directors. He and a Pullman associate serve on the Connecticut Leadership Team for Connecticut Cares, one of the organization’s largest annual fundraising events, which has generated more than $2.5 million for Lambda over the past 15 years.

With the support of the entire Pullman & Comley team, we will continue to work together with Lambda to change laws, policies and ideas until full equality is achieved for all LGBTQ Americans and everyone living with HIV.

“We are grateful for the generous support that Pullman has provided to Lambda Legal throughout the years. The firm’s legal talent and dedication have made a real impact on our ability to effectuate equality for LGBTQ persons in America.”

PARTNER CONTACT:
Anne Krook
CHAIR, BOARD OF DIRECTORS, LAMBDA LEGAL

PARTNER PROFILE:
Lambda Legal

Above: Pullman & Comley attorneys and Nancy Wyman, chair of the Connecticut Democratic Party and former Lt. Governor, at the 2018 Connecticut Cares event.
“Pullman has been an effective and efficient partner. The firm’s knowledge of Connecticut and Connecticut law has been invaluable as the economic challenges facing the university drive the need to work with partners that provide creative solutions.”

Nearly 140 years after the Storrs brothers donated land and money to start the Storrs Agricultural School, the University of Connecticut has grown to become one of the nation’s top 20 public universities, with state of the art facilities that foster imagination and advance innovation.

To ensure that ongoing infrastructure improvements are made at UConn’s campuses, An Act to Enhance the Infrastructure of the University of Connecticut (known as UConn 2000) was adopted by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1995 to provide for the financing of such improvements. Since 2003, the firm has served as UConn’s bond counsel and has represented it in connection with the financing of more than $1.5 billion of UConn 2000 projects and the administration of the UConn 2000 program.

Scott Jordan, the Executive Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer of the University of Connecticut, describes UConn 2000 as a complex program with many partners participating in the process including legislators, administrators and the board of trustees. Continued reductions in state financial support and rising costs result in a delicate balance of seeking efficiencies while working to protect the university’s academic mission. UConn relies upon Pullman to create innovative financing plans that fund the university’s growth, while ensuring that students receive a top-notch education.
Sacred Heart University was founded in 1963. For the first 25 years of its existence it was largely a commuter school serving mostly Connecticut students. But that changed in 2010 when it undertook a meteoric expansion of its curriculum offerings, student enrollment and campus footprint.

Over the last 20 years it has quadrupled its student population and doubled the size of its campus, and has become an educational leader in areas such as the STEM and healthcare disciplines.

In 2017, Sacred Heart acquired the former General Electric headquarters and has redeveloped it as its

“As General Counsel, I have the privilege of choosing whatever legal counsel in Connecticut I wish. I always opt for some of the best legal talent, which is why I choose Pullman & Comley. I consider them to be among the best attorneys in the state with substantial depth of experience, resources and intellectual strength. They make my job rewarding.”
West Campus. It is now the second largest Catholic University in New England, and one of the fastest-growing in the country.

Throughout the university’s transformation, it has called upon Pullman attorneys to provide guidance on many of the legal issues it has faced. These have included critical real estate and environmental matters encountered with its geographical expansion; personnel and employee benefits questions arising with a growing employee base; litigation disputes, including defending tuition clawback bankruptcy claims; and helping the university realize the economic benefits of its varied revenue services such as its golf course and radio station and towers.

Our attorneys look forward to our continued partnership with the university’s leadership to support its remarkable growth, changing student demographics, continued innovation and the attention it gives each student to ensure his or her success.
Homeless veterans identify legal barriers as among their top concerns. Problems with a landlord or difficulty securing VA disability compensation can stand in the way of a veteran’s access to stable housing, affordable healthcare or an adequate income.

The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center takes part in a medical-legal partnership that works with veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness and assists them with access to a lawyer who can advocate on their behalf.

Pullman & Comley attorneys annually commit a significant number of pro bono hours across various organizations to achieve positive outcomes for veterans. In a recent CVLC matter, a veteran was able to keep his housing for five months after eviction proceedings commenced, and our assistance with the VA administrative process helped him relocate to new housing.

Pullman & Comley attorneys are currently assisting another veteran defending a collections lawsuit. We also participate in CVLC’s annual Ride for our Vets, the only charity bike ride that benefits Connecticut veterans.

Pullman & Comley is committed to our veterans and places tremendous value on our partnership with CVLC to assist veterans in need.

“We are so grateful to the outstanding lawyers at Pullman & Comley who provide pro-bono services to CVLC’s veteran clients. They provide crucial expertise and caring legal representation to struggling veterans, achieving life-changing results.”

PARTNER PROFILE:
Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

PARTNER CONTACT:
Cynthia Johnson
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, CONNECTICUT VETERANS LEGAL CENTER, INC.
Elizabeth Simonetti
PARALEGAL

After working for more than 25 years in the property tax practice, Betsy believes that there’s always more to learn. She credits her high level of job satisfaction and professional development to the trust the attorneys have placed in her to take on more complicated cases, thriving in an environment filled with educated people. “We work with a cultured group of people, and you tend to grow from the people you work with. I gain an awareness of something new each day, enriching my overall experience.”

Elizabeth J. Austin
MEMBER

As co-chairs of Pullman’s Women’s Leadership Initiative (WLI), Liz Austin and Jean Perry Phillips drive the forum that offers our women attorneys camaraderie, countenance and strategies for career advancement. With support from the Executive Committee and in partnership with our active Diversity and Inclusion Committee, our WLI will continue to carry a strong voice in the design of firm initiatives, including client outreach and business development programs, as well as programs that enrich the lives and provide inspiration to women in our communities while at the same time promoting the importance of diversity and inclusion.
1919
John S. Pullman, William H. Comley and Arthur M. Comley open Pullman & Comley in Bridgeport

1945
The first female attorney, Helen Krause, joins Pullman & Comley

1952
Pullman & Comley becomes Pullman, Comley, Bradley & Reeves

1994
Seven attorneys and four staff from the firm of Hoberman and Pollack join Pullman & Comley and open the Hartford office

1994
Firm becomes Pullman & Comley, LLC

1998
Pullman & Comley’s Stamford office opens

2001
17 attorneys and 15 staff from the firm of Sorokin, Gross & Hyde join the Hartford office

2004
Pullman & Comley joins the Law Firm Alliance network, offering clients national and international legal resources

2011
Pullman & Comley’s Waterbury office opens

2013
Six attorneys and three staff from the firm of Sullivan, Schoen, Campane & Connolly join the firm and launch the School Law practice

2016
Six attorneys and three staff from the firm of Jeffers Cowherd join the firm

2019
Pullman & Comley celebrates its 100th Anniversary and begins its Centennial Year of Service
It’s not every firm that reaches this milestone but those who do share the knowledge that a firm built on the unwavering loyalty of its employees and the unqualified commitment to serving its clients will always succeed. We are proud that for 100 years we have met the needs of our clients; we are proud that for 100 years we have been a professional home for our employees. Pulling together to succeed together has been the cornerstone to our success and will be for the next 100 years.