

Massachusetts

GO TO Lawyers

Business 2022

MASSACHUSETTS
Lawyers Weekly

Letter from the Publisher



Dear readers,

Welcome to Massachusetts Go To Lawyers, a feature we debuted in 2020 to showcase leaders in the Massachusetts legal community by practice area.

For this list, we've chosen to focus on Business lawyers. The attorneys featured here were all nominated by their colleagues and chosen by a panel from Lawyers Weekly. We expect that some readers will argue that there are some excellent lawyers who should have been included. Let us know! And please nominate them for future lists. Other practice areas, such health care, tax, and business litigation, will be topics for future editions of Massachusetts Go To Lawyers.

Susan A. Bocamazo, Esq.

Publisher

Massachusetts Lawyers Weekly

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JOHN D. COLUCCI

**Managing Director, McLane Middleton
Woburn**

John D. Colucci, who leads McLane Middleton's corporate department, has a dual background as both an attorney and CPA – a unique skill set that gives him a differentiating perspective and depth of understanding of the legal issues necessary for protecting a growing business as well as the financial drivers for operating and sustaining a successful company.

Colucci puts these skills to work representing businesses that range from start-up companies to large, multi-owner private corporations. Over his many years in practice, Colucci has developed extensive expertise in numerous areas of commercial transactions and business operations, including business law, tax law and business succession planning.

The biggest part of Colucci's practice is complex mergers and acquisitions. His mostly confidential work in that arena encompasses multi-million-dollar transactions, including a recent deal for \$125 million.

Colucci takes pride in his ability to communicate complex legal and business issues clearly, concisely and simply, while his easy-going yet no-nonsense style helps him



effectively managing business and legal matters for his clients.

Beyond his busy practice, Colucci is deeply involved in a vast array of civic and professional endeavors, lending his services to numerous profit boards and committees, as well as taking on a number of leadership roles, including president of the Greater Beverly YMCA, the Kiwanis Club of Beverly, and the North Shore Technology Council.

Colucci has also served as director of the North Shore Chamber of Commerce and is the first practicing attorney to serve as board chair of the Massachusetts Society of CPAs. **MLW**

Achievements and professional activities

Director, North Shore Chamber of Commerce; immediate past chair, Massachusetts Society of CPAs; board chair, Essex County Community Foundation; chair, Peabody Essex Museum Corporate Committee; past president, Greater Beverly YMCA; past chair, Board of Directors, North Shore United Way; past president, Beverly Chamber of Commerce

CHRISTOPHER D. COMEAU

**Partner, Ropes & Gray
Boston**

Over the course of two decades, Ropes & Gray partner Christopher D. Comeau has established himself as a preeminent business lawyer for innovative and established companies in the biotech sector, guiding them through their most complex and challenging transactions while advising them on a full spectrum of corporate legal issues, as well as serving as trusted counselor to CEOs, directors and other corporate leaders.

Most recently, the Boston attorney advised Acceleron Pharma, a Cambridge-based life sciences company, in its \$11.5 billion sale to Merck & Co.

That deal represented one of Merck's biggest-ever acquisitions and diversified the pharma giant's pipeline by adding Acceleron's innovative drug candidates to its portfolio of therapies.

As big as that transaction was, it is far from Comeau's only such close. In fact, a month earlier, he advised Medtronic plc., a leading global medical technology company, in its acquisition of all outstanding shares of Intersect ENT – a maker of implants that open sinus passageways for delivery of a steroid to help ease patient suffering from chronic rhinosinusitis – in an \$1.1 billion all-cash transaction.

Additionally, in late 2020, Comeau led the



legal team for Prevail Therapeutics, a developer of neuroscience treatments, in its \$1 billion acquisition by global healthcare leader Eli Lilly & Company. Particularly noteworthy is the fact that Comeau steered these merger-and-acquisition transactions during the pandemic lockdown.

Meanwhile, in addition to these and other multibillion-dollar M&A transactions, Comeau provides such services as licensing agreements, formation of strategic partnerships, and financings on behalf of small companies, large global companies and private equity firms.

He also handles de-SPAC transactions, IPOs and other securities and governance matters. **MLW**

Achievements and professional activities

Moderator, BioPharm America Conference (2015); panelist, "From the Boardroom: Considerations in Option to Purchase Deals," Ropes & Gray Life Sciences Roundtable (2014); honoree, "Deal of Distinction," Life Sciences Category, Licensing Executives Society (2010); Finance & Transactional Attorney of the Year, LMG Life Sciences (2016); honoree, BTI Client Service All-Stars (2022)

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**CONGRATULATIONS
JOHN COLUCCI**



Director, Corporate Department and Managing Director of
McLane Middleton's Woburn Office

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