



Stephen L. Palmer

Partner

Boston
+1.617.951.9211

Stephen.Palmer@klgates.com

OVERVIEW

Stephen Palmer has a particular focus on the representation of 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 his clients include natural products, including natural and organic food and beverage companies; agtech; cloud computing and other technology companies; biotech and pharmaceuticals; digital health; 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.

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 International 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

- 2 December 2019, K&L Gates Guides Bar Harbor Bankshares on \$40 Million Debt Offering (*Press Release*)
- 15 July 2019, K&L Gates Advises Bar Harbor Bankshares on Acquisition of Regional Bank Branches (*Press Release*)
- 20 May 2015, Chambers USA 2015 Guide Recognizes K&L Gates, Lawyers as Industry Leaders (*Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Digital Health
- Private Equity Transactions
- Public Companies

INDUSTRIES

- Agribusiness
- Agtech
- Consumer Products
- Food and Beverage
- Technology

REPRESENTATIVE EXPERIENCE

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Sale of FM Systems LCL d/b/a Tuition Management Systems to Nelnet Business Solutions, Inc. a division of Nelnet, Inc.
- 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.
- 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 life sciences company in several acquisitions.
- 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.
- Acquisition by Stonyfield Farm, Inc. of Brown Cow West Corp.
- Represented Tea Forte in its sale to Sara Lee Corporation.
- 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.
- Represented Kettle Cuisine in its merger with affiliates of Arlon Food and Agricultural Partners, LP and Rabobank.

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 a private debt offering.

- Multiple preferred round financings for Stonyfield Farm, Inc.
- Venture capital financing for a beverage company.
- Venture capital financing for a snack company.
- Venture capital financings for Pharmaca Integrative Pharmacy, Inc.
- Venture capital financings for TraceLink, Inc.
- Going private transaction for Annie's Homegrown, Inc.
- Private equity recapitalization of Annie's Homegrown, Inc.
- Equity financing for a craft beer company.
- Convertible debt and equity financings for a natural food restaurant group.