

Charles F. Dingman

Partner

The focus of Charlie's practice is on advocacy and creative problem solving for clients affected by government regulation or seeking to forge contractual or other relationships with government bodies. Drawing on his past service as counsel to two government regulatory agencies, he has served a wide variety of for-profit and nonprofit clients with diverse and complex regulatory and government contracting issues.

Administrative Law & Government Procurement

Charlie regularly handles issues before a variety of administrative bodies, including Maine licensing boards, the Bureau of Insurance, and the Division of Purchases. He has argued appeals before Maine's Superior and Supreme Judicial courts and the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit.

Charlie has extensive experience in state bid preparation and litigation and is regarded as one of the most effective contract appeals attorneys in Maine. He is respected both by the state bid officials at the Bureau of General Services and by the bidders he has either helped to defend against appeals of awards or represented in invalidating awards.

Health Law

In health law, Charlie addresses reimbursement, regulatory, and government contracting issues for a wide range of clients in the health care sector. He has advised and advocated on behalf of hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, community mental health and social service providers, nursing facilities, providers of services to children with behavioral health and developmental challenges, managed care organizations, reference laboratories, and other health care providers on a wide range of economic, policy, and corporate issues. The focal points of his practice include Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, licensing and certificate of need issues, compliance issues, responses to civil and criminal fraud and abuse investigations, corporate restructuring, and government procurement issues, including appeals of state contract awards.

He has prosecuted appeals to the federal Provider Reimbursement Review Board (PRRB) and worked with hospitals on Medicare issues such as provider-based status, critical access hospital designations, and reimbursement. Charlie frequently participates in hearings and informal negotiations before the Maine Department of Health and Human Services and various licensing boards within the Maine Department of Professional and Financial Regulation. He also participates in the hearings and deliberations of the Maine Legislature on health care matters and is often called upon to draft legislation and testimony relating to health care regulation and reimbursement.



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Education Law

In conjunction with various clients who serve children with special needs, Charlie has worked with state officials on a number of problems related to regulation and reimbursement of treatment services to children with special needs in school settings. He had the opportunity to provide comprehensive representation and advocacy for Maine's first public charter school during a crucial strategic planning phase requiring creative advocacy on non-profit funding issues, and throughout its efforts to apply for and negotiate the terms of its charter.

Charlie also has experience on the front lines of education regulation and policy, having served for two decades on the school board of School Administrative District 52, including 17 years as chairman. In this role, Charlie presided at numerous disciplinary and personnel hearings, helped guide the school through the many challenges of administering an educational institution, complying with state policies and funding programs. He worked alongside the school's outside legal counsel on a variety of challenging legal issues, from student rights to school funding formulas to construction defects. During his board service, Charlie negotiated a rare withdrawal agreement on behalf of the district with one of the member towns (which ultimately failed in its efforts to leave the district).

Background

Prior to joining Preti Flaherty, Charlie served as the first General Counsel for the Maine Health Care Finance Commission. There, he was responsible for the Commission's rulemaking and adjudicatory hearing process, and represented the agency in state and federal courts and before the Legislature, from 1984 through 1992.

Prior to the creation of the Health Care Finance Commission, Charlie served as Senior Counsel and Hearing Examiner at the Maine Public Utilities Commission (PUC), where he handled utility rate and service cases, and participated in judicial and administrative proceedings arising from the AT&T antitrust settlement. He has combined his health care and telecommunications experience to counsel clients regarding the application of telecommunications technology to healthcare.

Charlie is listed in Woodward/White's *The Best Lawyers in America* for both Administrative Law and Health Law. He currently chairs the firm's Diversity Committee, having previously served several terms on its Management Committee. Charlie belongs to the American Health Lawyers Association, and he is also a member of the Maine State Bar Association and its Health and Administrative Law sections.

Charlie currently serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors of Maine Equal Justice Partners and is a recent past Chair of the Campaign for Justice. He also is a member of the board of the Justice Action Group and frequently serves as moderator of town meetings in Androscoggin County. Charlie lives in Leeds, Maine, and loves to hike the mountains of Maine and New Hampshire year-round, having summited all 67 "4000-footer" peaks in New England and all forty-eight White Mountain 4000-footers in winter.

Practice Areas

- Administrative Law
- Affordable Care Act
- Education Law
- Government Affairs
- Government Procurement
- Health Law
- Maine Legislative Team

Education

- Columbia University School of Law (J.D., 1978)
- Bowdoin College (A.B., magna cum laude, 1975)

Admissions

- Maine
- U.S. District Court, District of Maine
- U.S. Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals, First Circuit

Honors & Awards

2016 Equal Justice Hero Award from Maine Equal Justice Partners