

Severin M. Beliveau

Partner

Severin is one of Maine's best-known attorneys and has significant experience in legislative and regulatory issues. He is a founding partner of Preti Flaherty and directs the firm's Government Affairs practice in Augusta, ME and Washington, D.C. His practice also involves public issues, environmental projects and international trade.

Severin's private practice experience as a legal generalist, along with his work in public practice, the Maine Legislature and the U.S. Congress, make him uniquely qualified as a litigator concentrating in regulatory law and project development. His comprehensive understanding of every financing and regulatory agency in Maine allows him to employ creative, nontraditional legal solutions to problems by effecting changes in law as an alternative to litigation.

Throughout his career, Severin has been a leader in national and international organizations, giving him perspectives that transcend state boundaries. As a former director of the bipartisan American Council of Young Political Leaders, he helped promote cultural and political exchange programs among NATO countries and Eastern Europe. His work took him to Moscow, Leningrad, Riga and Tbilisi in the former Soviet Union. He also served on political leadership committees dealing with U.S.-Canadian relations, European security, the environment and technological change.

Severin was born in Rumford to a distinguished family of Maine lawyers and judges. His father, Albert J. Beliveau, Sr., was a justice of the Maine Supreme Court. His grandfather, Matthew McCarthy, served as the first municipal court judge in Rumford. His uncle, William E. McCarthy, was a Superior Court judge. His brother, Albert J. Beliveau, Jr., was Oxford County Judge of Probate and is a Member of Preti Flaherty.

Practice Areas

- Government Affairs
- Government Procurement
- International Commerce
- Maine Legislative Team

Education

- Georgetown University (A.B., 1960)
- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., 1963)

Admissions

- Maine
- U.S. District Court, District of Maine



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- U.S. Supreme Court

Honors & Awards

- Recipient of the French Legion of Honor Award, the highest distinction France awards civilians, for his leadership on key projects to improve the relationship between Maine and France (2008)
- President of the American Association of the Forum Francophone des Affaires, the Maine-based United States chapter of a worldwide alliance of 36 French-speaking nations working to promote economic development through business, industry and technology exchanges
- French Consular Agent for the State of Maine
- Selected by his peers for inclusion in Woodward/White's *The Best Lawyers in America*
- Distinguished Professor of Franco American Studies at University of Maine, 2008-Present

Civic Involvement

- Former Oxford County District Attorney
- Order National De La Légion D' Honneur, Member, 2009-Present
- Forum Francophone Des Affaires, President, 1996-Present
- Former member of the Maine State Senate and Maine House of Representatives
- Former chair of the Maine Democratic Party
- Former member, Democratic National Committee
- President, Governor John E. Baldacci's 2007 Transition and Inaugural Committee
- Former member of the Commission on Maine's Future
- Former member, Board of Trustees, American Council of Young Political Leaders
- Former director of Medical Care Development Inc.
- Former trustee of the University of Maine
- Founder of the Maine Alliance (part of the Maine Chamber and Business Alliance)
- Former president of the Samantha Smith Foundation, Board of Trustees, 1993-1996
- Former member of the Board of Governors of both the Maine State Bar Association and the Maine Trial Lawyers Association

Representative Matters

- **Lindsay, Goldberg, Bessemer** - Assisted Lindsay, Goldberg & Bessemer (LGB), a New York-based private equity firm, with purchasing a ten-year license to operate the State of Maine's wholesale liquor business – a monopoly that netted the state over \$25 million in profits a year. Severin and Preti Flaherty's Legislative Group worked with state leaders to enact landmark legislation authorizing the State to accept bids on the business. LGB made their offer, but didn't win the contract.
- **Harper's Development** - In one of central Maine's most significant economic transactions, Preti Flaherty represented Harper's Development in the acquisition of, and debt and equity financing for, the 310,000 square foot SCI Sanmina building in Augusta, one of the largest manufacturing buildings in central Maine. The transaction effectively transformed a defunct manufacturing facility into an office park that houses over 1100 employees, including a 300-employee call center and numerous government offices.

- **Trade Mission to France** - As Honorary Consul of France in Maine, Severin was instrumental in organizing Governor Baldacci's trade mission to France in 2005, which generated more than 5 million dollars in first-year sales.
- **Plum Creek** - For Plum Creek, the nation's largest private landowner, Severin led a team that petitioned Maine's Land Use Regulation Commission (LURC) to rezone nearly 420,000 acres of land in Northern Maine. After proceedings lasting three and a half years, Plum Creek's petition to rezone was unanimously approved by LURC. The Concept Plan is the largest development plan in Maine history and the effort was by far the most complex and contentious regulatory proceeding in Maine history. The rezoning authorizes Plum Creek to develop approximately 16,000 acres for 975 house lots and land for two resorts on Moosehead Lake. The Plan sets aside conservation easements of 392,000 acres to be permanently preserved as sustainable forestry and establishes a significant affordable housing program.