

Eric P. Stauffer

Of Counsel

Rick practices with the firm's Business Law, Real Estate and Health Care Groups and is the former Chair of the Business Law Group. He handles all types of commercial transactions, with emphasis on buying and selling businesses, structuring business relationships, lending transactions, construction contracting and technology procurement.

Previous Legal Experience

After receiving his law degree from Yale Law School in 1972, Rick worked in the Maine Governor's Office as Federal State Coordinator, Maine Alternate to the New England Regional Commission and Special Assistant to Governor Kenneth M. Curtis. As the governor's aide, Rick had staff responsibilities for natural resources, energy, environmental protection, economic development and Native American affairs. He served as Development Officer and General Counsel to the Maine State Housing Authority from 1975 to 1977. In 1977, he became Administrative Assistant to Governor Curtis during the governor's term as chairman of the Democratic National Committee. A year later, he joined Preti Flaherty.

Practice Areas

- Affordable Housing
- Business Law
- Construction Law
- Mergers & Acquisitions
- Real Estate

Education

- New College of Florida (B.A., 1969)
- Yale Law School (J.D., 1972)

Admissions

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

Professional Affiliations

- Fellow, American College of Mortgage Attorneys
 - Legislative Committee, Co-Chair
 - State Chair for Maine
 - Board of Regents
- Maine Bar Foundation, President
 - Board of Directors



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- Executive Committee
- Maine Real Estate Development Association, Board of Directors
- Maine State Bar Association
- Arizona State Bar Association
- District of Columbia Bar Association

Honors & Awards

- Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America*
- Recognized by *New England Super Lawyers*
- Maine Real Estate Development Association, Legislative Committee
 - Public Policy Advocacy Award, 1992
 - Founder's Award, 2002
- Lectured on legal opinions in business transactions, eminent domain and health privacy matters

Civic Involvement

- Goodwill Industries of Maine, Inc.
 - Board of Directors
 - Former President and Treasurer

Representative Matters

- **Real Estate Development Work** - Eric's contributions to major real estate development projects have included regulatory, contract and procurement work for the development of a major newspaper printing and production plant, the construction of a large psychiatric hospital and expansions for various Maine hospitals. He was lead counsel in the design and implementation of the cross-border ownership structure for a power generating facility.
- **Financial Workouts and Restructuring** - In financial workouts, he has handled the negotiation and documentation of waste handling agreements for several Maine municipalities as part of the financial restructuring of one of Maine's largest waste-to-energy plants. He also led the firm's groundbreaking work on the restructuring of a housing cooperative association.
- **Lead Counsel on Business Acquisitions** - He has been lead counsel in a number of business acquisitions including purchases of television stations in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Springfield and Champaign, Illinois, and Tallahassee, Florida, in addition to several newspapers in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area. He has also handled acquisitions of other telecommunications, call center, computer software, hydroelectric and insurance businesses both in and out of Maine.
- **Negotiation of Real Estate Purchases and Leasings** - Rick also handles negotiation and documentation of purchases, financings and leasing of real estate, including broadcast tower, shopping center, office building and other commercial leasing.
- **Collaborating with Teams to Help Clients Succeed** - As lead attorney on many major transactions, Rick has coordinated participation by other practice groups in the firm, particularly on matters related to the environment, employment and bankruptcy. He has a long record of success in collaborations with other professionals (including lawyers outside of the firm) to the maximum advantage of the firm's clients.

