Christopher R. Agostino

SHAREHOLDER

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OVERVIEW

Christopher R. Agostino is a shareholder and serves as business counsel to clients across a range of industries, including commercial real estate, construction, lending, manufacturing, hospitality, retail sales and services, and transportation, including carriers and brokerages. His practice covers the lifecycle of most privately held businesses from entity formation, joint ventures, contracts, employment matters, and commercial finance, to mergers and acquisitions, business succession planning, "business divorces" and creditors' rights.

In addition, Chris helps clients navigate complex administrative law matters and land use regulations, which provides a valuable resource to the firm's **Corporate**, **M&A**, **Zoning & Land Use**, and **Commercial Real Estate Groups**. He has successfully represented clients in administrative proceedings before federal, state, and local agencies, including proceedings before the Massachusetts Division of Banks, Department of Public Health, Division of Professional Licensure, Department of Environmental Protection, Housing Appeals Committee, and other regulatory agencies. He has served as lead counsel to clients in all phases of Massachusetts Chapter 40B permitting and regulatory compliance.

Chris is a graduate of The College of William and Mary in Virginia and a graduate, cum laude, from Suffolk University Law School.

Chris has been recognized by Martindale Hubbell as an AV® Peer Review Rated Attorney. He is admitted to practice in all state courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts, and is a member of the American Bar Association.

Honors & Awards

- Boston Magazine Top Lawyer (2024, 2025)
- *AV Peer Review Rated Attorney,* Martindale Hubbell, 2010-Present

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

General Transactions

- Seller's counsel in $60MM sale of family-owned trucking company, including 13 freight terminal locations across three states, 800 employees, and more than 850 pieces of equipment.
- Buyer's counsel in $57MM acquisition of 65-room luxury hotel, related business assets, IP, and restaurant.

PRACTICE AREAS

Banking, Finance & Lending

Commercial Real Estate

Corporate & Business

Restaurant & Hospitality

Mergers & Acquisitions

Zoning & Land Use

EDUCATION

B.A. The College of William & Mary in Virginia, 2002

J.D. Suffolk University Law School, *Cum Laude,* 2005

ADMISSIONS

- Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts

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- Buyer's counsel in acquisition of minority interest in 38,000sf office building, which required complex transaction structure and timing to avoid adverse tax consequences.
- Counsel in long-term lease of industrial R&D property with landlord management build-out.
- Tenant's counsel in long-term lease of ~37,000sf high-bay warehouse facility, with multiple expansion options, early termination rights, right of first offer for real estate, and $1.1MM tenant improvement allowance for tenant-managed improvements.
- Borrower's counsel in the workout and restructuring of $40MM commercial mortgage debt secured by multiple commercial real estate assets.
- Seller's counsel in sale of majority interest in $22MM freight forwarding business through asset sale transaction, with retained interest in resulting entity.
- Seller's counsel in sale of $10MM freight forwarding business through stock sale transaction necessary to maintain operating licenses, with tax-free "F-Reorg" pre-closing, and post-closing earnout rights.
- Buyer's counsel in acquisition of $3.25MM S-Corp service business with SBA 7(A) financing, post-closing lease of principal office space, key-person employment agreements, and nuanced non-compete issues.
- General counsel to four startup distilled spirits ventures, including general contract review, investment subscriptions, and governance issues.
- General counsel to homebuilder, including administrative law compliance and permitting services, transactional services, and general advisory work.
- General counsel to family-office real estate holding company, including sales transactions, leasing transactions, and day-to-day management.

Hospitality Industry Transactions

- Represented international fast casual restaurant chain in US "on-shoring" work, including creation of entity structure for six US locations in three states in collaboration with tax advisors, as well as subsequent leasing, and tenant fit-outs.
- Represented Massachusetts-based food manufacturing business in tax-free reorganization necessary to separate three unique lines of business and unlock Massachusetts manufacturing tax credits.
- Represented partnership of three restaurant operators and outside friends and family investor group in organization of limited liability company to operate a single-location, full-service, sit-down restaurant in Boston.
- Represented restauranteur in purchase of existing restaurant business, underlying real estate, and closing of associated SBA 504 loan, including organization of operating entity with key-man profits interest (i.e. chef/manager), organization of real estate entity, asset purchase transaction, real estate purchase transaction, SBA loan closing.
- Represented minority partner in restaurant business "divorce."
- Represented experienced restaurant operator in high-level, summary review of lease for new location with percentage rent, TI allowance, and contingent free rent period.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Standing Against Your Neighbor: Abutter Appeals One Year After the Affordable Homes Act**, (August 2025)
- **New Housing Bill Raises Bar for Abutter Appeals**, (August 2024)
- **A Q&A Guide for Businesses to Navigate the Corporate Transparency Act**, (January 2024)
- **Navigating New Disclosures Under the Corporate Transparency Act**, (January 2024)
- **Voters Say Yes to "Massachusetts Fair Share Amendment," a.k.a. "Millionaires Tax"… What's Next?**, (November 2022)
- **Client Alert: Governor Baker Signs Progressive Zoning Act Changes**, (February 2021)
- Quoted, article **Developer Bound by Predecessor's Promise in Permitting**

Process, *Lawyers Weekly* (August 2017)
- **New Massachusetts DOR Enforcement Effort**, (August 2017)
- **Creditors Pierce LLC Limited Liability** (January 2017)
- Quoted, article **Open Meeting Law Not Violated Over Mediation**, *Lawyers Weekly* (December 2016)
- Quoted, article **HAC's Approval of 40B Project Upheld. Affordable Housing Goals Trump Planning Concerns**, *Lawyers Weekly* (July 2016)
- **Suburban Restaurant Development Requires Careful Local Zoning Consideration** (January 2016)
- **Massachusetts Division of Banks Expands Reach of Mortgage Regulations** (August 2015)