

Gary M. Ronan

Director

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Gary is a versatile litigator who helps clients resolve complex probate and fiduciary, real estate, and professional liability matters. His emphasis on cutting to the heart of the matter and focusing on what is most important to his clients sets him apart from many other litigators, as does his focus on intelligent persuasion over pounding the table.

Gary's clients include trustees, beneficiaries, real estate owners and developers, law firms, and various types of businesses. In addition to his work for clients, Gary serves as the firm's Assistant General Counsel, advising the firm and its lawyers on matters of professionalism, loss prevention, and risk management.

As a probate and fiduciary litigator, Gary handles a range of family disputes, fiduciary duty claims, trust matters, partnership and limited liability company disputes, and other trust and estates matters. He carefully guides individuals and their families, identifying potential avenues for dispute resolution so that his clients may make the best possible decisions given their particular circumstances. Gary also counsels trustees concerning their duties and obligations in order to alleviate problems before they happen.

In his real estate practice, Gary advises and advocates for clients on a range of land use, entitlement, title, and leasing matters. His experience includes handling appeals of zoning and entitlement decisions in appellate courts, litigating cases in trial courts and administrative agencies, and advocating for clients before local boards.

Gary's professional liability work involves defending lawyers and law firms, in addition to providing ethics advice. He is sought by legal industry professionals to handle high-stakes professional liability matters including legal malpractice, partnership disputes, and other liability concerns.

Across his entire practice, Gary is known for helping clients resolve their legal matters successfully and without undue expense. But when a case cannot be resolved by agreement, Gary is a strong trial lawyer with experience in state and federal courts and before administrative agencies.

Accolades

- Lawdragon, Leading 500 Litigators in America, 2022-2024
- Meritas Leadership Institute, Class of 2012-2013
- Massachusetts Super Lawyers Rising Stars, 2009-2014

Affiliations

- Co-Chair, Litigation Section, Professional Liability Committee, Boston Bar Association (2014-2016)
- Member, Boston Inn of Court (2011-2014)

Admissions

- Massachusetts
- District of Columbia

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., *summa cum laude*, 2002)
- Yale University (B.A., 1997)

Representative Matters

Defense of Trustees in an Action for Breach of Fiduciary Duty and Removal

A beneficiary sought the removal of two trustees of a Massachusetts Business Trust, alleging that the trustees had acted beyond their authority and breached their duties in carrying out a number of complicated transactions designed to place a conservation easement on family-owned land and exchange various parcels of land among several trusts. At trial, the Court found that the trustees had not breached their duties and awarded fees and costs to the trustees. The Appeals Court determined that the trustees had authority under the trust to effectuate the transactions at issue and affirmed the trial court's determination that no breach of fiduciary duty occurred.

Court of Appeals Victory for a Multifamily Developer

When a trial judge ordered that construction on a client's multifamily project in Washington, DC must stop unless the client obtained new approvals, Goulston & Storrs stepped in and persuaded the Court of Appeals to vacate the trial court's injunction order and reverse the trial court's decision on the merits, clearing the way for the completion of the client's project.

Defending Law Firm and Lawyers in Estate and Business Succession Case

Defense of a law firm and individual lawyers against malpractice claims arising out of the preparation of an estate and business succession plan.

Invalidating Zoning Changes

We assisted a real estate developer in successfully invalidating a zoning change adopted by a town in an effort to block its project.

Establishment of Rent During Extension of Commercial Lease

Defense of a lawsuit seeking to vacate an arbitration award pertaining to the establishment of rent due during the extension term of a lease for commercial office space.

Affordable Housing Owner Obligation Dispute

Representation of the owners of affordable housing developments in disputes with a state agency concerning the owners' obligations upon the prepayment of their mortgage loans and claims that they have been overcharged mortgage interest over a period of years.

Publications

November 1, 2023

Probate & Fiduciary Litigation Newsletter - November 2023

October 4, 2023

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

June 28, 2023

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

April 13, 2023

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

February 9, 2023

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

November 16, 2022

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

August 8, 2022

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

May 19, 2022

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

March 3, 2022

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

December 15, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

November 2, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

September 22, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

July 28, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

07/07/21

Law360: Mass. Ruling A Cautionary Tale For Attorneys Changing Firms

Law360

June 7, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue VI

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

January 5, 2021

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume I, Issue V

November 16, 2020

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume I, Issue IV

October 13, 2020

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume I, Issue III

August 25, 2020

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume I, Issue II

July 6, 2020

Law of the Land - Real Estate Litigation Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

April 7, 2020

Prior Work Conflicts in the Age of COVID-19

March 6, 2020

SJC Ruling is A Win for Development Industry

Boston Globe

August 2018

Experts in Legal Malpractice Cases: Necessary Today, Excluded Tomorrow