



GALLAGHER
EVELIUS & JONES LLP
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Together, the attorneys of Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP have been successfully achieving client goals for more than four decades.

History & Tradition

Excellence, Integrity & Stability

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Making a Difference

Since its beginning, our firm has been guided by six fundamental values:

- *Delivering the highest quality professional services*
- *Representing respected clients*
- *Creating stable work relationships*
- *Building community and mutual support within the firm*
- *Nurturing common purpose and firm loyalty*
- *Reaching out through community service*

We provide our clients with sophisticated legal services in complex matters within a personable and responsive smaller firm environment. We are committed to our clients and our community.

Experience & History

The firm was founded in 1961 by the late Francis X. Gallagher, a highly respected attorney and civic leader in the Baltimore community and throughout the State of Maryland. Frank Gallagher established a tradition of effective and responsive service to

clients coupled with a commitment to public service and community involvement. These values remain the hallmarks of the firm today.

Gallagher Today

Over the years, our firm has grown slowly, in a deliberate and strategic manner, careful not to lose our identity as a cohesive group of professionals who are dedicated to our clients, our community, and our colleagues.

Today, our attorneys regularly handle a variety of complex business, litigation, health care, real estate, tax, religious, education, and banking matters. Guided by our managing partner, Richard O. Berndt, the firm has long represented many established local and national institutions, businesses and organizations.

Case Studies & Clients

Building Strong Relationships

The attorneys and professional staff of Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP are dedicated to our clients. We seek to build long-term relationships founded on effective service, knowledge of and interest in our clients' business goals, mutual respect, and loyalty.

A Commitment to Our Clients

The firm takes great pride in the accomplishments of our clients, and for more than 40 years, we have worked hard to assist them overcome the obstacles they face. As a result, we have had the privilege of representing many of our clients for decades.

For example, over the past 25 years, we have worked side by side with The Shelter Group, lending our commitment and expertise as it grew from a small start-up company to a nationally known industry leader in residential property development and management. Today, the company manages more than \$2 billion in real estate assets throughout the nation.

“To an individual, all the attorneys are smart, creative, problem solvers, who are also very responsive and very loyal to their clients. They are public spirited and involved in volunteer activities, and that sets them apart from other law firms.”

*Marilynn K. Duker, President,
Shelter Development Corporation*

A Common Purpose

Team-based, creative problem solving is the touchstone of the firm's outstanding client relationships. For each case we provide high ethical standards and individualized solutions.

Working together, our attorneys represented the development team for a new four-star, 750-room waterfront hotel in Baltimore's Inner Harbor East. Through our work and dedication, we were able to enact beneficial legal precedents for future public development efforts.

At the start of the project, vocal opponents brought three lawsuits against the development team threatening to stop or delay the project by challenging laws relating to the government-private joint development effort. Our attorneys crafted the strategy, wrote the primary briefs, and made the primary arguments in all three cases before each level of the state court system. All the cases were litigated to a quick, successful conclusion and construction was never delayed.

While the litigation was pending, the firm worked with the Maryland legislature to enact a new state law that gives Baltimore City additional authority to work with developers when an office, hotel or residential development project meets certain specific criteria. There are now more avenues in Baltimore City for developers to receive economic incentives for major development projects.

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Practice Areas

Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP is organized into practice groups that help us manage our work and communicate about client needs and developments in specific legal areas. Many of our attorneys work in more than one practice area and we view every client as a client of the whole firm, rather than of a single attorney or practice group.

Our practice group structure promotes the sharing of information, enables attorneys to build experience in particular substantive areas, and enables us to provide practical, comprehensive advice to clients.

Business Transactions

The firm has particular strength in assisting clients in sophisticated business matters, including banking & finance, real estate, corporate governance, and mergers & acquisitions. We represent banks and other lenders in a variety of commercial loan transactions, including asset-based lending, leveraged buy-outs (including ESOP loans), health care lending, tax-exempt revenue bond purchases, and construction lending. We represent a number of highly successful real estate clients, both for-profit and non-profit, who are engaged in the development of residential apartment, hotel, commercial, and other types of real estate construction and development, using a variety of innovative real estate finance vehicles.

Creditors' Rights

We represent banks, institutional lenders, receivers, trade vendors and other creditors in the areas of problem loan workouts, creditors' rights, and bankruptcy. The firm has aided both its lender and borrower clients in a variety of financial restructurings, from asset-based real estate loans to working capital loans to defaulted tax-exempt bonds. Our experienced bankruptcy litigation attorneys regularly resolve disputed bankruptcy matters for creditors and other clients.

Education

The firm has an extensive education law practice, representing several independent colleges and more than 100 Catholic elementary and secondary schools, as well as several private non-Catholic schools in the Baltimore-Washington area.

We advise on all issues related to educational institutions, including the development and implementation of policies relating to student discipline and academic matters; faculty appointment, tenure, and dismissal negotiations and proceedings; personnel policies and disputes; contract drafting, negotiation, and enforcement; regulatory compliance; fund development, charitable planned giving and endowment funds; corporate and governance issues; and real estate transactions and capital financings, including tax-exempt financings.

Employment

We advise a range of large and small businesses and institutions on all aspects of the employment relationship, providing advice and counsel on such issues as employee handbooks, employee discipline and discharge, drug/alcohol testing, and promotion and compensation issues. In most cases, we are able to help clients avoid employment-related litigation. When claims arise, however, we represent our clients in local, state, and federal administrative agency hearings, and in state and federal court.

Health Care

The firm advises health care clients on all issues related to the delivery of health care services, including reimbursement, corporate matters, mergers and affiliations, personnel issues, tax issues, health planning (Certificate of Need), Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse, self-referral issues, hospital/physician joint ventures, licensing and certification requirements, compliance, risk management, medical staff issues, relationships with alternative delivery systems (HMOs and PPOs), regulatory issues relating to mental health and substance abuse treatment facilities, HIPAA, and real estate matters. We have been engaged in a wide variety of financings for our health care clients including conventional loans, tax-exempt and taxable bond financings, and tax-exempt and taxable lease financings.

Litigation

The firm has a strong litigation practice. We achieve litigation successes for clients in a broad range of subject areas, including business, construction, estates & trusts, creditors' rights, employment, health care, insurance coverage, and land use. Our litigation attorneys are experienced in the state and federal courts, and they are skilled in resolving disputes through traditional trial work as well as through alternative dispute resolution methods, such as negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

Tax Credit Financing

Since the early 1990's, the firm has been known nationally for its experience in the innovative financing of real estate projects through the sale of low income housing tax credits and federal, state, and local historic tax credits. We represent developers and several national clients with equity funds to engage in development projects throughout the country.

Not for Profit Services

We provide sophisticated yet practical advice to many religious and secular non-profits with sensitivity to their unique cultures and legal issues. The firm draws on expertise from different practice areas within the firm to serve the needs of our non-profit clients, which range from small local churches to large international charities, and who work in diverse areas including human services, education, health care, and housing.

Firm Culture

Dedication and Determination

Our attorneys and staff work closely with clients to solve problems and achieve the goals and results desired. We provide effective representation and counsel through our responsiveness to client issues and inquiries, and our deep understanding of our clients and their businesses.

We genuinely admire and respect our clients, and we enjoy and celebrate their many successes. For example, the firm's long-standing representation of Mercy Medical Center in Baltimore demonstrates our work ethic and commitment to clients. For several decades, we have served all of Mercy's legal needs, from strategic planning and acquisitions to risk management and litigation defense. We have worked with pride as full participants in the growth and evolution of Mercy into a major urban health care institution with an outstanding reputation for quality medical care.

A Distinctive Firm Culture

Gallagher Evelius & Jones LLP maintains a positive and pleasant workplace where the contribution of each individual is acknowledged and appreciated. Internal cooperation and prompt communication with clients are emphasized and valued. We take pride in our public-spirited people and their commitment to providing high quality legal work and personal, attentive service. As we grow, our most important goal is to continue to provide quality legal service to clients.

Achieving Excellence

Our attorneys and staff are well known for a deep knowledge and range of experience in all areas of practice. We regularly handle matters of the highest complexity and sophistication, from high-stakes litigation to major commercial real estate development projects. Our smaller size promotes a tight knit community of legal professionals who are flexible and responsive to diverse client needs.

Our recent successes include representing the national equity investor responsible for Gallery Place, a \$250 million retail and office project in downtown Washington D.C., and our jury victory in a will contest case involving a \$20 million estate.

Investing in Our Community

The firm's tradition of public service continues today in our mission to improve the Baltimore region through the commitment, leadership, and generosity of our people.

One of the firm's many public service endeavors is a pro bono commitment to help the City of Baltimore take control of and rehabilitate 5,000 decaying row homes, so that devastated areas may be restored for city residents. We represent many long-standing non-profit clients whose missions are to enhance the quality of life. We provide pro bono legal representation to indigent and disadvantaged clients. We counsel charitable organizations, and serve in leadership roles on non-profit governing boards.

Contact Us

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