



MICHAEL F. SWEENEY, *FOUNDING PARTNER AND SHAREHOLDER*

OVERVIEW

Michael Sweeney is the president and co-founding shareholder of Duffy & Sweeney, a leading boutique business law firm headquartered in Providence.

Known as a savvy deal-maker and negotiator, Mike leads the mergers and acquisitions practice where he regularly handles mergers, sales and business acquisitions as well as recapitalizations and equity financings. He serves as general corporate counsel to a number of privately held, mid-market businesses. He is a frequent speaker and writer on contemporary middle-market strategies for companies.

He is recognized annually by key ranking organizations including *Best Lawyers*, *Super Lawyers* and *Chambers USA: America's Leading Guide for Business*, among others. Most recently, he was recognized by *Best Lawyers* as the 2019 "Lawyer of the Year" for Corporate Law in the Providence metro region. He received the Deal Maker of the Year award from *Finance Monthly*; he was twice recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in by *Best Lawyers*, for his expertise in mergers and acquisitions and also with closely held companies/family businesses. Mike holds Martindale Hubbell's highest rating of AV.

"Michael Sweeney is well regarded for his abilities in M&A, equity financings and recapitalizations. Sources are impressed with his negotiating skills and praise him as a "talented lawyer with great business sense. He is sought out for his M&A expertise." | Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2018)

"Mike Sweeney has a fine reputation for problem solving and is praised by clients who say his strength is the ability to see the big picture of what people are trying to accomplish. He solves problems, he doesn't create them." | Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business (2017)

EXPERIENCE

Mike represents leading companies in technology, manufacturing and distribution, insurance, banking, trust and financial services, and e-commerce industries. Mike has counseled numerous clients from initial start-up formation through various stages of growth and financing, including initial and secondary public offerings and/or sale or merger.

Since the 2008 recession, Mike has successfully spearheaded numerous significant mid-market M&A transactions across the US, helping family and entrepreneur owners convert several billion dollars of private enterprise value into liquidity. He is a frequent speaker at middle-market forums with leading financial institutions and investment banks.

RECOGNITION

Mike is recognized annually by key ranking organizations including *Best Lawyers*, *Super Lawyers* and *Chambers USA: America's Leading Guide for Business*, among others. Most recently, he was recognized by Best Lawyers as the 2019 "Lawyer of the Year" for Corporate Law in the Providence metro region. He received the **Deal Maker of the Year** award from Finance Monthly in 2012. He was recognized as "Lawyer of the Year" in Rhode Island for his expertise in mergers and acquisitions (2014) and with closely held companies/family businesses (2017) by Best Lawyers. Mike holds Martindale Hubbell's highest rating of AV.

CONTACT

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EDUCATION

Providence College (B.S., 1985);
St. John's University School of
Law, (J.D., 1988).

Senior Staff Member, *St. John's
Law Review*, 1986-1988.

PRACTICE AREAS

Mergers & Acquisitions

Business Law

Shareholder Disputes

Banking & Finance

Intellectual Property &
Technology Law

Hospitality

BAR & COURT ADMISSIONS

Rhode Island (1988)

Massachusetts (1990)



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MICHAEL F. SWEENEY, *FOUNDING PARTNER AND SHAREHOLDER* continued

"What Clients Say"

Michael Sweeney is well regarded for his abilities in M&A, equity financings and recapitalizations. Sources are impressed with his negotiating skills and praise him as a "talented lawyer with great business sense. He is sought out for his M&A expertise." (From Chambers USA, 2018)

Co-founding partner Michael Sweeney is regarded as "*not just a bright and intelligent legal technician, but someone who understands the business and who has a talent for negotiation.*" He serves as general counsel to several businesses.

"Michael Sweeney leads the firm's corporate/commercial team and his recent work involves international IP transfer issues and general corporate. He is described as "*astute on financial issues and extremely knowledgeable in commercial law in the USA and internationally.*"

"His strength is the ability to see the big picture of what people are trying to get accomplished. He solves problems, he doesn't create them."

COMMUNITY

Professional & Community Involvement

Trustee, Providence Preservation Society

Overseer, Providence Children's Museum (Chairperson 2008 – 09 Playworks Capital Campaign)

Commodore, Rhode Island Commodores

Member, Providence College President's Council

Fellow, Rhode Island Bar Foundation

Member, Rhode Island Bar Association Business Organizations Committee, 1988-Present; Chair 1998 – 2006

Member, Massachusetts and American Bar Associations (Member, Business Law Section and Mergers and Acquisitions Committee)

PRESENTATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

"**Wannamoisett Business Forum**" in conjunction with US Trust covering the M&A landscape, succession planning and key questions faced by business owners and their families.

"**Midsize Firms luring 'Big Law' clients.** See PDF of full article from Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly. (February 2017)

"**Middle-Market Forum,**" in conjunction with US Trust, Bank of America, & Houlihan Lokey . See article in Providence Business News. (2016)

"**Selling a Business: Maximizing Value,**" in conjunction with BNY Mellon Wealth Management (2015)

Issuing Equity in the Business, Chapter 7, the Practical Guide to Organizing a Business in Rhode Island published by Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education

"Update on New SEC Executive Compensation Rules," *Massachusetts and Rhode Island Lawyers Weekly*

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