



Lon F. Povich

Counsel

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Practice Areas

State & Local Agencies
Litigation
Public Law
Internal Investigations
White Collar Defense

Honors

2018: Executive Leadership Award, Jewish Community Relations Council

2014: Good Apple Award for "demonstrated dedication to public service, fairness and social justice," Massachusetts Appleseed Center for Law and Justice

Education

Harvard Law School, J.D.,
1984

Dartmouth College, A.B.,
1981, *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*

Overview

A trusted advisor to government officials, boards of directors, and senior management, Lon has extensive experience practicing law in both the public and private sector. Lon's substantial experience in navigating complex legal industries has made him a powerful asset to a variety of leaders in government and private sector businesses.

Most recently as Chief Legal Counsel to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, Lon was responsible for providing counsel on the wide range of policy and legal matters that came before the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, and their senior team. Lon worked closely with attorneys across the Massachusetts executive branch in addressing the myriad challenging legal and policy issues confronting the Commonwealth. One of his key contributions was overseeing the selection and confirmation for 130 highly-qualified and diverse judges, including five justices on the Supreme Judicial Court and 30 percent of the judiciary overall.

Policy highlights of Lon's tenure in Governor Baker's administration included counsel on regulating new industries, such as ride-hailing companies like Uber, short-term housing rental companies like Airbnb, and the growing legal marijuana industry. Lon played key roles in developing significant pieces of legislation, including the broad-scale 2018 criminal justice reform bill that focused on minimizing the number of people cycling through the court system, helping those who served jail time stay out of the correctional system, and providing flexibility for young offenders. Lon also played a key role in the 2015 reform measures for the MBTA and facilitated the fast-moving legal decisions that needed to be made in the wake of the catastrophic natural gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley in 2018.

Prior to his time in the Governor's office, Lon held private sector roles as General Counsel at both Fortune 250 retailer BJ's Wholesale Club and global strategy consulting firm Boston Consulting Group. In his seven years at BJ's, Lon and his team focused on SEC/NYSE and board governance issues, regulatory compliance, labor and employment matters, and dispute resolution, including the settlement of wage and hour class action and a class action stemming from a breach of the company's computer systems. At BCG, Lon led the firm's Global Services and risk management teams and was responsible for all legal matters, including the firm's relationships with clients and its protection of intellectual property, investments, and ventures activities.

Lon has also served as a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in Boston, where he investigated, tried, and handled the appeal of cases involving complex financial crimes as part of the Economic Crimes Unit. He began his career as a litigation associate at Goodwin Procter in Boston after serving as a law clerk to Chief Justice Vincent McKusick of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court.

Lon has also been active in the community, spending eight years as a director of MassHousing, the state's low-income housing finance agency, and another five years on the Governor's Judicial Nominating Commission, nominated by Governors Mitt Romney and Deval Patrick. Lon has also served on the Board of Directors of the Greater Boston Food Bank and Greater Boston Legal Services, been elected a member of the Council of the Boston Bar Association, and been involved in a number of local organizations in Wellesley, MA where he lives with his wife Ilissa.

Results

- Oversaw the selection and confirmation process for 130 judges as Chief Legal Counsel to Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, including five justices on the Supreme Judicial Court and 30 percent of the judiciary overall.
- Provided counsel on regulating new industries, including ride-hailing companies like Uber, short-term housing rental companies like Airbnb, and the growing legal marijuana industry.
- Developed the broad-scale 2018 criminal justice reform bill that focused on minimizing the number of people cycling through the court system, helping those who served jail time stay out of the correctional system, and providing flexibility for young offenders.
- Played a key role in the 2015 reform measures for the MBTA under Governor Baker.
- Helped facilitate the fast-moving legal decisions that needed to be made in the wake of the catastrophic natural gas explosions in the Merrimack Valley in 2018.
- Served as a federal prosecutor in the United States Attorney's Office in Boston, investigating, trying, and handling the appeal of cases involving complex financial crimes as part of the Economic Crimes Unit.
- Served as a member of BJ's Wholesale Club's senior leadership team during a period of significant business turnaround, resulting in the sale of the company to two private equity firms in September 2011.
- Worked on BJ's Wholesale Club's settlement of wage and hour class actions and lawsuits arising from a breach of the company's computer systems.
- Elected Boston Consulting Group's first non-consultant, global partner, responsible for all legal matters, including the firm's relationships with its clients, protection of intellectual property, investments, and ventures activities.
- Oversaw the creation of an investment vehicle at Boston Consulting Group and negotiated the related joint venture agreement among the BCG investment vehicle, Goldman Sachs, and General Atlantic Partners.

Affiliations

Massachusetts Court Management Advisory Board, Supreme Judicial Court appointment, 2019-present

MassINC, Board Member, 2019-present

Jewish Community Relations Council, Board Member, 2019-present

Massachusetts Bay Community College, Trustee, 2014-2015

Greater Boston Food Bank, Board Member, 2008-2014; Treasurer/Audit Committee Chair, 2011-2014

Greater Boston Legal Services, Board Member, 2010-2013

Boston Bar Association, Elected Council Member, 2010-2013

Judicial Nominating Commission, appointed by Governors Mitt Romney and Deval Patrick, 2005-2010

Wellesley Education Foundation, Advisory Board and Board Member, 2000-2009

Massachusetts Housing Finance Agency, Board Member, 1996-2004

Temple Beth Elohim of Wellesley, various Board and Committee positions, 1994-2014

Dartmouth College, Head Class Agent and Alumni Council member, 1981-present