

O'DONNELL, LEE, McCOWAN & PHILLIPS, LLC

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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Description of Title Department, Services, and Personnel

Firm History

O'Donnell, Lee, McCowan and Phillips, LLC is a six-lawyer firm founded in 1997 as O'Donnell & Lee, by Tim O'Donnell and Bill Lee, who had previously worked at Weeks & Hutchins and Sherman, Sandy & Lee, respectively. Tom McCowan, moving from Arizona, joined the firm in 2001. In 2006, Tom McCowan became a partner in the firm at the same time that Michael Phillips joined, as a partner, ending his prior partnership at Phillips & Bernier. The firm was renamed O'Donnell, Lee, McCowan and Phillips, LLC in 2006. Bryan Ward joined the firm as an associate attorney in 2009 and became a partner in 2014. Brendan O'Keefe joined as an associate in 2013.

O'Donnell Lee, and all its predecessor firms, have always practiced a significant amount of real estate law. At Phillips & Bernier, Mike Phillips' practice consisted almost exclusively of real estate title and processing work. His merger with O'Donnell Lee energized that part of the practice further and allowed Tom McCowan to accelerate his interest in that field of law.

O'Donnell Lee's title department currently processes 350-400 real estate purchase and loan transactions per year. We maintain a website of helpful real estate information and resources at www.watervillelaw.com/realestate.

Real Estate Attorneys

Tom McCowan - Tom has been an attorney since 1995. Since 2005, he has narrowed his practice to real estate law only. Tom is primarily responsible for closely overseeing the firm's title department, perfecting and streamlining our title processing services, conducting most residential closings, reviewing all title commitments, and issuing title policies.

Mike Phillips - While a partner at Phillips & Bernier, Mike built the title business that has flourished even further since he joined O'Donnell Lee in 2006. Mike presently focuses on commercial business transactions and the associated commercial real estate transactions. Mike assists with title supervision and performing residential closings when needed.

Real Estate Staff

Lisa Bean - Our principal real estate processor, Lisa started her career in the banking industry in 1997 as a teller and residential and commercial mortgage loan processor with Skowhegan Savings Bank. Beginning in 2004, she worked as a legal secretary and real estate processor with Corson & Blaisdell in Madison, Maine. Joining O'Donnell Lee in 2013, she brings her reputation for proactive, friendly, and organized service to our real estate team.

Susan Jackson - Sue has worked with Tim O'Donnell since 1977, and during all of that time has supported him with title research, residential and commercial closing work, title insurance preparation, deed and document drafting, as well as general legal secretarial support and estate work. Sue currently performs all of our in-house title updates and prepares title commitments, title insurance policies, deeds, and other documents. She also provides processing back-up when needed.

Deborah Douglas - Deb is a real estate processor and assistant working part- to full-time with O'Donnell Lee depending upon seasonal demands. Deb opens files for new title requests, orders title work, prepares most deeds, provides processing support, title updates, discharge and release tracking, and other trouble-shooting support to the team. Deb has been a legal assistant since 1975, working with three law firms before joining us in 2007.

Anne Owens – Anne works with Mike Phillips on commercial real estate and loan transactions and other business and corporate matters. She also provides backup residential processing as needed. Anne received her Associates Degree in Legal Technology and Paralegal Studies from the University of Maine, Bangor, in 2007, and previously worked with a Portland law firm for 5 years.

Title Insurance Company Affiliations

Tom McCowan, Mike Phillips, and Tim O'Donnell are agents for First American Title Insurance Company, Old Republic Title Insurance Company, Chicago Title Insurance Company, and Commonwealth Title Insurance Company.

Physical Facilities

The physical facility is a picturesque white house, built in 1910, situated centrally between Waterville's main thoroughfares of Kennedy Memorial Drive and Main Street. Photographs of the firm and a map of its location are viewable on the website and the firm's Facebook page. The building boasts three attractive conference rooms that we use to conduct residential and commercial real estate closings and client meetings.

Off-Site Closing Services

All of our closings are conducted by attorneys, predominantly by Tom McCowan or Mike Phillips. Commercial closings are performed by Mike Phillips or Tim O'Donnell. Most are closed off-site, typically at banks, occasionally at real estate offices. We regularly travel from Waterville to Skowhegan, Augusta, Madison, Bingham, Belgrade, Dexter, and Pittsfield at no extra charge for closings. We are focused on providing friendly, congenial closing experiences for the participants and are always mindful that our presentation reflects upon the banks and realtors we serve.