

# Gorham & Hayes

ATTORNEYS  
AT  
LAW

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## Firm Overview

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*At Gorham & Hayes, we offer high quality legal representation at reasonable costs to clients in the Metro Boston area and on Cape Cod.*

*Our guiding principle is that our clients-whether they are in Cambridge or Chatham, Dedham or Dennis-deserve top quality legal representation that is affordable.*

## PRACTICE AREAS

*We are a general practice firm, and we offer representation on wide variety of matters.*

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### **REAL ESTATE**

Gorham & Hayes has represented parties on a variety of real estate matters, from landlord/tenant disputes to closings. While there are many instances where a real estate lawyer's advice would be helpful, perhaps no occasion is as common or as important as buying or selling a home. If you are buying a new house or selling your old one, you may want to involve a lawyer, especially at the following stages:

#### ***The offer***

The offer is a rather simple agreement between the buyer and the seller on the price, deposit, closing date, and any inspection contingencies. A lawyer should review the offer, especially for buyers who have concerns about the inspection and financing contingencies.

#### ***The P & S***

The purchase and sale agreement (the "P & S") is the expansion on the offer and spells out all the terms for the entire transaction. While there are standard P & S agreements, it is advisable to have a lawyer review the P & S because the standard form may not contain terms or riders that are important (for example, a clause that the property's septic system be made Title 5 compliant if it is not).

#### ***The closing***

Legal counsel should be involved in the closing to review title issues (such as easements, covenants, or restrictions under the Wetlands Protection Act), prepare a Homestead Declaration (offering limited protection against creditors), and finalize the numbers with the lender's counsel. The Buyer's lawyer should attend the closing and review the closing documents. Note: For real estate closings involving properties that will be occupied by tenants, there are a host of other issues with which a real estate lawyer would be familiar.

## PRACTICE AREAS, CONTINUED

### **ESTATE PLANNING**

Gorham & Hayes provides individually-tailored estate planning packages, for small and moderate estates, to larger, taxable estates, requiring more sophisticated packages designed to preserve family assets. No matter the size of your estate, there is an excellent estate planning package for you that will save you money while preventing many unintended and unwelcome consequences. [CLICK HERE](#) for examples. Moreover, Gorham & Hayes offers a simple and affordable flat fee for many estate planning packages.

Depending on your needs and those of your family, you may want to consult with Gorham & Hayes regarding the following:

- Wills
- Testamentary Trusts
- *Inter Vivos* Trusts (Living Trusts)
- Other Trusts
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Health Care Proxies
- Living Wills

### **SMALL BUSINESS COUNSELING**

There are many factors involved in starting a business in Massachusetts, from liability issues to tax implications. Gorham & Hayes can assist you from the initial choice of the suitable business entity to post-formation matters. Among the services we offer small businesses is:

- Incorporation
- Partnerships
- Limited Liability Partnerships
- Limited Liability Corporations
- Lease Agreements
- Licenses
- Collections

PRACTICE AREAS, CONTINUED**ARTIST REPRESENTATION**

Gorham & Hayes has represented various artists in matters ranging from those of particular relevance to the artist—such as contract drafting and review, negotiation with galleries, copyright protection, dealing with corporate and legal art purchasers—to those that may concern the artist in general, such as formation of business entities, wills, trusts and estate planning.

## BIOGRAPHIES

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### ***CHRISTOPHER C. GORHAM***

Prior to starting Gorham & Hayes, Chris Gorham practiced at large firms in both Philadelphia and Boston, most recently with the Boston office of Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis LLP, a National Law Journal Top 250 firm. Chris has served business and individual clients all over Massachusetts on a variety of civil matters. He has complemented his law practice with work in the field of continuing legal education and real estate. Chris is a graduate of the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor and of the Syracuse University College of Law, where he graduated with high honors and was a member of the Syracuse Law Review. He is a member of the Boston Bar Association and the Barnstable County Bar Association.

### ***ELIZABETH K. HAYES***

Elizabeth K. Hayes has experience in a wide variety of civil and criminal matters. Elizabeth is a former Assistant District Attorney for Suffolk County, serving in the Boston Municipal, East Boston and Charlestown District Courts. She has also represented large governmental organizations, small businesses and private individuals in civil rights, malpractice and tort matters in both the state and federal courts. Elizabeth has a background in politics, having worked for the Indiana State Senate and later serving as staff counsel of the Indiana Commission on Juvenile Justice. Elizabeth earned her undergraduate and law degrees at Indiana University. She speaks French fluently.