



Firm History

From its inception, Rich May has been engaged in solving our clients' most pressing and complex legal and business problems.

Our capabilities include corporate & securities, mergers & acquisitions, private equity, venture capital, debt & equity finance, energy & utilities, telecommunications, life sciences, intellectual property, entertainment, civil litigation, taxation, investment management, employment, real estate, environmental law, international transactions and estate and wealth planning.

The firm's clients include investors, developers, utilities, investment managers, manufacturers and entrepreneurs located primarily in the Northeast, with a growing number of clients located elsewhere in the U.S. and abroad. These clients range in size from multinational corporations to closely held businesses and individuals. Rich May provides to its clients the specialized expertise generally associated with large, national firms, while maintaining the prompt service and personal relationships found in smaller, regional firms.

Rich May attorneys include many recognized leaders in their fields. It is our policy to remain on the cutting edge through affiliations with major universities, continuing legal education, and civic involvement in our communities.

The firm was founded in 1937 by John J. Burns, the first General Counsel of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Harvard Law Professor, and judge, and Ned Brandon, the SEC Regional Administrator and then United States Attorney in Boston. John Rich, a prominent attorney and executive in the public utilities industry, soon joined, along with Gerald May, Sr., a trial lawyer known for his defense of libel cases on behalf of the Boston Daily Record.

Other key founders include Edmund Blake, labor lawyer and former Regional Administrator of the National Labor Relations Board; Henry Leen, trial attorney, judge, and legal advisor to

Services

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Cardinal Cushing; Thomas Bilodeau, Sr., noted athlete, Kennedy family advisor and public utilities specialist; Arthur Flaherty, prominent lawyer and entrepreneur; Harold Dondis, chess champion and columnist; and Walter Landergan, master of corporate and securities transactions. All of these leaders continue to leave their mark on the firm that Rich May has become.

Learn more about our history in the slider below or [download the PDF presentation](#) that was shown at the 75th Anniversary Celebration!

Rich May Timeline

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Rich May represents several title insurance companies in precedent setting cases before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court on mortgage foreclosure procedures and in dozens of follow-on cases before the Massachusetts Superior Court.



2010

- Rich May attorney Erica Bigelow is one of the principal drafters of the Commonwealth's New Homestead Act, working with legislators and other bar groups to insure its passage. The bill, which modernized and greatly expanded homestead rights of residents of the Commonwealth became law on December 16, 2010.



- Rich May dominates field to win 3rd Annual Lawyers Have Heart Road Race.

Rich May Timeline

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2006

- Rich May represents George Appell & Appell Family in a restructuring of multi-generational family businesses, including the \$2 billion sale of Susquehanna Pfaltzgraff and its operating divisions.

Super Lawyers

2007

Rich May begins 6 year continuing run of having more than one-third of its attorneys named SuperLawyers.

2008

Firm represents competitive telecommunications carrier, RNK in \$40,000,000 sale.



Rich May Timeline

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2004

Rich May attorney Jim Behnke authors an article published in Massachusetts Law Review on obtaining land access for telecommunication companies.



Rich May successfully represents Olin College in critical infrastructure disputes in connection with construction and start-up of this acclaimed higher educational institution.

Rich May Timeline

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2000

Firm represents HealthGate Data Corp. in its \$40,000,000 initial public offering.

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2001

- Firm represents essential.com, one of first online utility companies, assisted in capital raise of over \$400,000,000.

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- Firm name changed to Rich May, a Professional Corporation.

RichMay

Rich May Timeline

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Rich May advises and represents Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline, LLC and Portland Natural Gas Transmission System in permitting, land acquisition, immediate entry and eminent domain matters in the construction of their Joint Facilities Pipeline Project in Maine, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.



The Maritimes & Northeast Pipeline brings offshore, onshore and LNG-sourced natural gas from Atlantic Canada to North American markets.

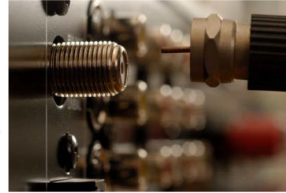
With 670 miles of pipeline (340 miles U.S.), Maritimes provides fuel for the northeast United States and Atlantic Canada - 600 MMcf/d of natural gas capacity on the Canadian side and 800 MMcf/d on the U.S. side.

Rich May Timeline

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1993

Rich May represents McCourt Family in the building of a new Cable TV system in Boston using new proprietary high speed construction techniques.



1995

- Firm represents Peer Review Analysis in merger with Core Management.
- Rich May represents Cornerstone Holdings Group in its initial \$60MM Financing; and during the subsequent six Cornerstone acquisitions of growing catalogue companies, including Frontgate, Garnet Hill, Smith and Noble and others; The Cornerstone Group was sold in 2005 to IAC Interactive Corp (Home Shopping Network) for \$750 Million.

Rich May Timeline

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1990

- Firm conceives ground-breaking litigation on \$100,000,000 nuclear plant litigation and represents utility purchaser of electricity in successful settlement thereof.



- Rich May represents Peer Review Analysis, Inc, in its \$12,000,000 initial public offering.

Rich May Timeline

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Rich May assists in “roll-up” of numerous Coca-Cola bottling distributorships in New York, Pennsylvania and New Hampshire, creating the ninth largest Coca-Cola bottling franchise in the United States before its highly successful sale.



Firm represents utility purchasers in numerous “QF” Power Purchase Contracts, including wind, hydro and cogeneration plants.

Rich May Timeline

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- Firm represents Canal Electric in finance and construction of a second 560 MW electric generating plant on Cape Cod.



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- The Firm changes its name to Rich, May, Bilodeau & Flaherty.

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- Firm wins major case at U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for group of utilities regarding President Ford's oil import fee involving millions of dollars and their customers. Though the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the Court of Appeals, the President did not try to reinstate the fee.

Rich May Timeline

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1964

- Rich May Attorney Harold Dondis draws chess match with Bobby Fischer.



- Harold Dondis starts writing the Chess column for the Boston Globe.



1965

Rich May represents Superior Carriers, a national trucking company and current client, for the first time.

1968

Rich May represents Canal Electric in finance and construction of 560 electric generating plants on Cape Cod.

Rich May Timeline

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Rich May fulfills key legal roles in expansion of natural gas pipeline system into Northeast US.

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1955

Rich May successfully handles proxy fight and begins representing Fall River Gas and Corning Natural Gas.

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Rich May Timeline

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1938

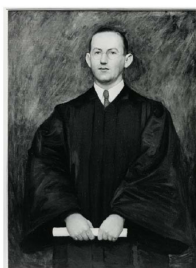
Edmund J. Brandon named US Attorney in Boston.

1939

Firm renamed Burns, Blake & Rich.



Edmund J. Brandon



John J. Burns

Rich May Timeline

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John J. Burns

*9**3**0's*

John J. Burns became a full professor at the Harvard Law School at the age of 28, and a Massachusetts Superior Court Justice, at age 29, the youngest in the Court's history. After 3 years on the Superior Court, he became the first general counsel of the S.E.C., of which Joseph P. Kennedy was the first Chairman.

