

Christopher E. Howard



Christopher E. Howard – Partner Pierce Atwood, LLP; Chairman, Maine North Atlantic Development Office. Chris is the Chairman of the Maine North Atlantic Development Office, (MENADO) which was formed in 2013 as an initiative of the Maine International Trade Center to increase trade and investment between Maine and markets of the North Atlantic Region and develop Maine’s policy in Arctic affairs. Chris is a graduate of Bates College and Cornell Law School. He is currently a partner at Pierce Atwood LLP, Northern New England’s largest law firm with offices throughout New England where he serves on the firm’s Management Committee and is the former head of its Business Practice Group. His practice focuses on all aspects of corporate, securities, and commercial law, focusing on representing many of the region’s largest businesses in a wide variety of transactional settings. Chris’ experience includes a six-year term as chief operating officer at American Skiing Company, where he managed all of that company’s capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, and resort development transactions, and was responsible for more than \$1 billion in U.S. capital markets in financings ranging from as small as \$30 million to as large as \$350 million. He managed the company’s IPO and listing on the NYSE; structured the acquisition of 12 ski resorts nationwide from Maine to California; and directly oversaw the development of seven major hotels.

Chris was also one of the moving forces behind the successful launch of Maine Employers Mutual Insurance Company (MEMIC), now one of New England’s largest property and casualty insurers. Chris acted as both its counsel and interim CEO in connection with its initial start-up. Chris currently serves as MEMIC’s General Counsel.

Chris is included in The Best Lawyers in America for Mergers & Acquisitions and was selected as Lawyer of the Year for Mergers & Acquisitions Law in 2015. He brings a unique combination of technical legal skills and hands-on business and finance experience, which enables him to integrate these disciplines into strategies that match client objectives and provide clients with a competitive advantage.

His interest in North Atlantic trade and Arctic affairs is an outgrowth of his longstanding focus on improving the Maine and Northern New England economy. His firm is a strong supporter of the MENADO initiative, through which Maine is taking an active leadership role in shaping the discussion around the impact Arctic change will have on Maine’s economy.