

# BOSTON BUSINESS JOURNAL

## Burns & Levinson adds team from Boston environmental law firm Mackie Shea Durning



Burns & Levinson co-managing partner David Rosenblatt. Burns and Levinson has expanded its environmental and real estate practice groups by adding on the five-member team from Boston boutique environmental law firm Mackie Shea Durning.

BY BENJAMIN KAI  
Reporter, Boston Business Journal

Burns & Levinson recently expanded its environmental and real estate practice groups with the addition of the five-member team at 45-year-old boutique environmental law firm Mackie Shea Durning.

Attorneys John Shea and Peter Durning have joined Burns & Levinson as partners, while Thomas Mackie has joined as senior counsel, Peter Vetere as an associate and Gail Hire as of counsel. The expansion means Burns & Levinson, a Boston-based firm founded in 1960, will have one of the largest environmental practices in the region.

David Rosenblatt, co-managing partner of Burns & Levinson and chair of the firm's environmental group, told the

Business Journal in an interview that the move is part of the firm's strategic plan to expand its environmental practice, and came out of discussions with the Mackie Shea Durning team in late spring.

"This provides us with greater depth and breadth of coverage in the environmental area, which is expanding considerably and going to be a growth area in the legal market," Rosenblatt said.

He added that Burns & Levinson and Mackie Shea Durning have been assisting clients on cutting edge issues across the state, including environmental justice, climate change regulations and contamination from perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Durning told the Business Journal that Mackie Shea Durning has been deeply involved in evolving regulations on how to address PFAS. He noted that Shea has significant experience in coastal development and wetlands issues, and that Mackie has been a thought leader on environmental justice and related permit requirements.

He added that "our environmental boutique was very Massachusetts focused, but being able to join Burns & Levinson, with its strong presence in Boston and the region, gives us an opportunity that we wouldn't have had. It's quite a benefit for us. John, Tom and I have had to be entrepreneurial and we're excited that Burns & Levinson has that same spirit and attitude."

Rosenblatt said it's important for law firms of size to cover environmental justice, climate change and related issues. He said the recent expansion builds on Burns & Levinson's strategy of having a "very client-centric approach, not a Big Law approach" despite being a large firm of about 130 total attorneys as of September.

According to Business Journal research, Burns & Levinson is the 12th largest law firm in Massachusetts, with 115 lawyers in the state as of January.