



Merger FAQs

Why are Gardner Fulton & Waugh and Drummond Woodsum merging?

Gardner Fulton & Waugh and Drummond Woodsum are merging because we share common values and a similar focus in serving municipalities and school districts in New Hampshire. We are excited about the possibilities this merger offers to our municipal and school clients. Combined, the two firms will become one team and have greater expertise and the resources of a full-service law firm to meet the legal needs of our clients. Not only will there be more depth of experience, but the range of services available to our clients will broaden. For example, Drummond Woodsum attorneys specialize in collective bargaining, public finance and environmental law, as well as employment law and general municipal law.

How is this being communicated to Gardner Fulton clients?

You should have received a letter or phone call by November 15 from Gardner Fulton & Waugh informing you of the merger, describing what it will mean, how it will work and answering any questions you might have. If for some reason you were not contacted, please reach out to your primary contact at Gardner Fulton & Waugh and they would be happy to answer any questions that you might have.

What does this mean for Drummond Woodsum and Gardener Fulton & Waugh clients?

For the clients of both firms, the merger means that we will have greater resources available to you with expertise in serving municipalities statewide, with offices in Manchester, Lebanon and Portsmouth. GFW attorneys Adele Fulton, Shawn Tanguay, Christine Fillmore and Bernie Waugh are leaders in the field. Combined with Drummond Woodsum attorneys Matt Serge, Matt Upton, Keri Roman and Mark Broth, they will be the deepest municipal law practice in New Hampshire.

How and when will this impact me as a Gardner Fulton & Waugh client? What does this mean for me?

First, the merger will not go into full effect until January 2019. Between now and then, Drummond Woodsum and Gardner Fulton & Waugh are working on becoming one team. That will mean a change to the name of the Gardner Fulton & Waugh law firm, which will start to use the Drummond Woodsum name. However, the attorneys who have been serving you will seamlessly continue to do so. We don't plan any changes to those critical client relationships. Once merged, clients will have the benefit of being able to access a wider range of legal services and resources, all out of one firm.

I am a Gardner Fulton & Waugh client. Will my rate go up?

No, both law firms understand how municipalities budget for legal services and will maintain current rates for the services being provided by the Gardner Fulton & Waugh team.

Will Gardner Fulton & Waugh's office location stay the same?

Yes, the combined law firm under the name of Drummond Woodsum will continue to serve clients from the former Gardner Fulton & Waugh office in Lebanon, NH. Municipal law services will also be provided from Drummond Woodsum's offices in Manchester and Portsmouth.

I like who I've been working with at Gardner Fulton & Waugh. Will my attorney contact change?

No. All of the Gardner Fulton & Waugh lawyers are staying on board and will be part of the combined Drummond Woodsum team. They will continue to serve their current clients, with the ability to access all of the services and support that Drummond Woodsum offers.

I am located in X area. Will Gardner Fulton and/or Drummond Woodsum continue to serve this location?

Yes, both firms currently serve clients across the entire state of New Hampshire and expect our accessibility to clients to improve after the merger.

What email and phone number should I now use to contact my Gardner Fulton & Waugh attorney?

Please continue to use the same contact information, which will continue to work like normal. The Gardner Fulton & Waugh phone number will stay the same and we will notify you well in advance of any changes to email addresses.

Where can I go to read more about this? Who can I contact if I have questions?

We will keep you abreast of updates through email. Additionally, you are encouraged to contact the attorney you normally work with to answer any questions. We will also post any news updates on the progress of our merger on the Drummond Woodsum website at Dwmlaw.com.

Are all of the Gardner Fulton & Waugh attorneys joining Drummond Woodsum? Are any leaving the practice?

All of the Gardner Fulton & Waugh attorneys will be joining the combined Drummond Woodsum team.

Who is Drummond Woodsum? Where does it come from?

Drummond Woodsum is the leading law firm with long experience serving the needs of municipalities and school districts in Maine. They began serving NH municipalities and school districts almost 15 years ago and have been steadily growing their New Hampshire practice ever since. They currently serve as general counsel, as well as special counsel on matters requiring particular expertise, to over 20 towns and cities in NH and the firm provides general school law and special education legal services to over 90 New Hampshire school districts.

I like the personalized service I have been receiving from Gardner Fulton & Waugh. Won't this change with Drummond Woodsum? They are a much larger firm.

Though larger in size, Drummond Woodsum is very familiar with working with municipalities and their officials and has always emphasized providing personalized service to each of their clients. That's one of the common values we share with Gardner Fulton & Waugh. We are confident that as a combined organization, we will continue to provide the same kind of personalized attention you have come to expect.

I have an outstanding invoice with Gardner Fulton. Who do I remit it to? Where do I mail it?

You should continue to work directly with Gardner Fulton & Waugh as you always have, and we will keep you informed prior to any changes.

When will this merger be finalized?

We are planning on finalizing the merger in January of 2019.