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Business
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James L. Rudolph

**Rudolph Friedmann
Boston College Law School**

James L. Rudolph's orientation toward businesses and their needs extends back to before he became an attorney. His family was in the electrical business and he spent summers working as an electrician's helper and later as an estimator. As soon as he finished law school, he started representing contractors, subcontractors and suppliers.

More than four decades later, corporate clients in all stages of the life cycle come to Rudolph for help with their most complex business matters, "bet-the-company" cases, and counseling on day-to-day issues.

During this time, regardless of the issue the business is dealing with — anything from entity formation and expansion to succession planning, buyouts or shareholder disputes — Rudolph has demonstrated the ability to help organizations navigate the maze of laws and regulations with which they're dealing. And he hasn't shied away from high-profile disputes, particularly in the restaurant industry.

For example, in the 1990s, Rudolph represented Marc Berkowitz in a bitter shareholder dispute against his father, mother and brother over rights in the family business, Legal Sea Foods. The case ended in a settlement.



He also represented Davio's restaurant group in a highly contentious wrongful termination case that resulted in a jury verdict in favor of his client.

And he was counsel for restaurant/entertainment developer James Cafarelli against celebrity chef Todd English in a shareholder dispute arising out of their partnership in the 1990s and early 2000s. The dispute was resolved with a division of business assets.

Over this time, Rudolph has won the loyalty of his clients.

"I truly listen to Jim," Davio's CEO Steve DiFillippo writes in a letter to Lawyers Weekly. "I could not imagine having a better lawyer or advocate."

Achievements and professional activities:

Founder and managing partner, Rudolph Friedmann; fellow, Construction Lawyers Society of America; board member, Associated Builders and Contractors of Massachusetts; chair, Board of Overseers, Anti-Defamation League/New England Regional Board; vice president, The Governor's Academy; board member, Massachusetts Restaurant Association; advisory board member, Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination; member, Marblehead Zoning Board of Appeals; member, Swampscott Board of Selectmen 1990-1993; member, board of directors, North Shore Chamber of Commerce