

## *Kirk Gillies Siegel*

Kirk's primary areas of practice are real estate and property law and land conservation. He is involved in all areas of title research and property law issues that allow the firm to provide comprehensive counsel and document preparation services to lenders, buyers, and sellers of land in Maine, through the firm's subsidiary company, Oxford Title. Kirk oversees the title research arm of the title company, and is an agent for First American Title Insurance Company and Chicago Title Company.

In addition, he specializes in land conservation law, providing counsel to private landowners and land trusts, utilizing his background in property law, his experience as a founder and board president of a Maine land trust, and the expertise of his colleagues at Hanley & Associates with backgrounds in estate planning, trusts, and family business succession planning.

Kirk grew up in the White Mountains of New Hampshire, where he attended Holderness School and Dartmouth College, graduating with a B.A. in English Literature in 1982 with Distinction in the Major. He was captain of the Dartmouth Ski Team, and a member of the U.S. Biathlon Team from 1980 to 1984, representing the U.S. at the World University Games in Bulgaria in 1983.

Following a bid for the 1984 Olympic Team, Kirk joined the faculty at Gould Academy in Bethel, Maine. Over a ten-year period at Gould, he taught English, French and computer science, ran the school's public affairs office, and coached cross-country skiing and biathlon in the U.S. and Europe. The affiliation with Gould began a strong connection with the town of Bethel, where Kirk has been a member of the Bethel Comprehensive Planning Committee the town's Trails Committee, and was co-founder and president of the Mahoosuc Land Trust, a regional non-profit land conservation organization.

Kirk's work with land trust conservation easements stimulated an interest in the law, a profession chosen by his mother and grandfather. This led to a degree at the University of Maine School of Law, where he was a member of the Law Review and president of the Law & Technology Association. In his third year, Kirk published an article on property tax exemption in the Maine Law Review and an article on the Endangered Species Act in the Ocean and Coastal Law Journal. He graduated first in his class, summa cum laude, and received the prize for the best published legal article.

Kirk began challenging legal work as early as his first year in law school, when he researched and authored appeals to the Maine Supreme Court, and throughout law school he did legal research for several of western Maine's most prominent attorneys and firms. In 1997 and 1998, Kirk served as law clerk to Justice Robert W. Clifford of the Maine Supreme Judicial Court, gaining in-depth experience in a wide breadth of legal areas.