Mark D. Nielsen

Of Counsel

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Overview

Mark D. Nielsen brings extensive experience as a senior legal leader and former public company executive at a large, publicly traded telecommunications company, where he served as Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel overseeing complex legal, regulatory, and business matters. He also has significant experience in government, having held senior legal and policy roles at the state level.

From 2014 to 2026, Mark served as Chief Legal Officer of Frontier Communications (NASDAQ: FYBR), a national telecommunications company, with responsibility for all corporate, litigation, contractual, intellectual property, and employment matters, as well as all state and federal regulatory affairs. He concluded his tenure with Frontier in connection with the successful closing of the company's $22 billion sale to Verizon.

Prior to joining Frontier, Mark served as Associate General Counsel of Praxair, Inc. (2009 – 2014) and Assistant General Counsel of Raytheon Company (2007 – 2009).

From 2004 to 2007, Mark served under Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, first as Chief Legal Counsel and subsequently as Chief of Staff. As Chief Legal Counsel, he advised on legal implications of policy decisions, drafted legislation and executive orders, and served as the Governor's principal advisor on judicial appointments. As Chief of Staff, he was responsible for the Administration's policy and legislative agenda and oversaw the day-to-day operations of state government.

Earlier in his career, Mark served as an elected member of the Connecticut Legislature, serving as state representative (1993-1995) and then state senator (1995-1999). He began his legal career as a law clerk to Justice Neil L. Lynch of the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court (1989-1990).

Mark is currently a member of the Adjunct Faculty at Columbia Law School. He teaches a popular class on the in-house practice of law.

Practices & Industries

Bankruptcy & Restructuring

Corporate & Business Law

Mergers & Acquisitions

Public Companies & Securities

Technology, Telecommunications & Outsourcing

Experience

No aspect of this advertisement has been approved by the highest court of any state. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome.

Oversaw all legal aspects of multiple multi-billion-dollar plus M&A transactions

Obtained numerous state and federal regulatory approvals required for the completion of various large and complex M&A transactions

Managed a nationwide litigation portfolio involving contract disputes, consumer class actions, regulatory enforcement matters, and other high-stakes commercial litigation

Served as Chief Restructuring Officer in connection with a large court-assisted balance sheet restructuring

Advised boards of directors and senior executives on a wide variety of matters relating to corporate governance, legal compliance, and litigation risk

Oversaw internal investigations involving compliance, ethics, and potential regulatory enforcement

Led the legal response to a major shareholder activist campaign

Education and Credentials

Education

Harvard Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, 1989

Harvard University, A.B., *magna cum laude*, 1986

Admissions

State of Connecticut

State of New York

Commonwealth of Massachusetts

News

Former Public Company Executive Mark Nielsen Joins Day Pitney
March 30, 2026

In The Media

In-House Legal Tech Budgets Could Double By 2028
Law360, May 26, 2026

Connecticut Movers: Cummings & Lockwood, Day Pitney
Connecticut Law Tribune , May 12, 2026

Day Pitney hires Frontier's former top lawyer after Verizon closes $22B deal
Hartford Business Journal, March 30, 2026

Mark Nielsen Joins Day Pitney
CT News Junkie, March 30, 2026

Ex-Frontier CLO ‘Excited' For ‘A New Chapter' At Day Pitney
Law360, March 30, 2026