



MANAGING SHAREHOLDER

Mark J. Zausmer

Zausmer 

(248) 254-4824
mzausmer@zausmer.com

Through a combination of legal and business skills and an unwavering commitment to his clients, Mark Zausmer has become one of the most knowledgeable attorneys in Michigan.

His work as founder and Managing Shareholder has turned Zausmer, P.C. into one of the most highly regarded litigation firms in Michigan. In the courtroom, Mark has successfully tried and resolved a number of high-stakes, groundbreaking cases, such as his handling of a \$14.9 million settlement on behalf of a client whose property was the target of an eminent domain taking by the U.S. government – the largest settlement in Michigan in 2002 as reported by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. His arguments in two eminent domain cases before the Michigan Supreme Court forged new law regarding acquisition of private property for public purposes.

Given his expertise in land acquisition issues, Mark was one of the primary drafters of the Michigan Uniform Condemnation Procedures Act, including provisions dealing with environmental remediation of contaminated property being acquired for public use.

Mark has also gained prominence for navigating financially distressed businesses through liquidation, rehabilitation, and receivership. He has been appointed as Receiver and Conservator to troubled businesses by the Governor, the Insurance Commissioner, the Attorney General, and the Cemetery Commissioner.

He had a leading role in several troubled companies in which the State exercised its regulatory authority, such as The Wellness Plan, OmniCare, and most notably, a collection of 28 cemeteries across the state. In the cemetery matter, the prior owner misappropriated more than \$60 million in trust funds, but after Mark instituted a number of measures to avoid financial collapse, recover assets, and restore solvency and profitability, the trust funds were replenished and the business was eventually sold and transitioned to a new owner. Mark also served as counsel to Cadillac Insurance Company for one of the largest and most complex insurance company receiverships in Michigan history.

Mark's influence has also been felt in the region's economic growth. As counsel for the city of Detroit in the development of the Fox Theater District and the Cobo Hall expansion projects, he has been at the forefront of the revitalization of downtown Detroit. Mark has also represented Detroit and Wayne County, as well as the state of Michigan, in other important economic development projects in the region, including the Chrysler Jefferson Assembly Plant, Tiger Stadium, Detroit City Airport, Pinnacle Aeropark, and Veterans Administration Hospital projects. His work has made a substantial impact on future growth in Southeastern Michigan. Other representative clients include ITC Holdings, the Detroit Pistons, Piston Group and its affiliate, Vinnie Johnson Enterprises, and the State of Michigan. Mark's participation in resolving budget disputes between the Wayne County Sheriff and the Wayne County Executive has also placed him at the forefront of important political issues in our region.

Mark's work for the community extends beyond legal representation. He serves on a number of community boards, including City Year Detroit, a non-profit organization that partners with Detroit schools by providing diverse and talented tutors, mentors, and role models to work alongside teachers to support and enhance student success. In 2019, Mark was inducted into the inaugural class of the Michigan Lawyers Weekly Hall of Fame, which annually recognizes 20 Michigan legal leaders for their notable successes and demonstration of strong leadership.

Despite his many victories and accomplishments, Mark is most proud of the law firm he has built. By assembling a team of talented and credentialed attorneys and fostering a culture of hard work, innovative thinking, and entrepreneurship, Zausmer has become the go-to firm for companies, municipalities, and individuals in need of first-class legal representation. For Mark, lists, rankings, and industry accolades are meaningless compared to the business and personal relationships he and his colleagues have cultivated with their clients and the deep trust that those clients place in the firm.



FARMINGTON HILLS

32255 Northwestern Highway, Suite 225
Farmington Hills, MI 48334-1574
Phone: (248) 851-4111 Fax: (248) 851-0100



MANAGING SHAREHOLDER

Mark J. Zausmer



(248) 254-4824
mzausmer@zausmer.com

PRACTICE AREAS

Alternative Dispute Resolution
Appellate
Automotive Industry
Business & Commercial Litigation
Cemetery Law
Eminent Domain
Energy Infrastructure
Insurance Defense
Insurance Insolvency & Liquidation
Malpractice & Professional Liability
Municipal
Non-Profit & Human Services
Real Property
Sexual Misconduct Coverage & Defense
Wrongful Adoption

EDUCATION

Wayne State University Law School,
Juris Doctor, 1980

University of Michigan,
Bachelor of Arts in History, *with honors*, 1977
Varsity Tennis Team

BAR ADMISSIONS

State of Michigan
U.S. Supreme Court
U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

PUBLICATIONS

"Focus on The Problem For Effective Dispute Resolution," *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, July 13, 1998
"Michigan Uniform Condemnation Procedures Act (Principal Draftsman)," 1988

RECENT PRESENTATIONS

Numerous lectures, speeches, and talks for the Insurance Institute of Michigan, International Right of Way Conference, Wayne State University Law School, and other organizations

PROFESSIONAL GROUPS

State Bar of Michigan, *Litigation, Master Lawyers, Negligence Law, Real Property Law Sections, Eminent Domain Subcommittee*
State Bar Attorney Grievance Committee, 1990 – 94
Detroit Metropolitan Bar Association
Oakland County Bar Association
Michigan Residential Builders Board, 2006 – 08
Michigan Auto Insurance Placement Facility Board of Directors, 2004 – 06
Michigan Judicial Candidate Review Committee (appointed by Gov. Jennifer Granholm, 2003)
Receivership Counsel, Michigan Insurance Commissioner, 1990 – present
Task Force for Amendments to Uniform Condemnation Procedures Act, Member

VOLUNTEER & COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

City Year Detroit, Board Chair, 2015 – 2022; Board of Directors, 2013 – Present
Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, Board of Directors, 2022 – Present
Jewish News, Board of Directors, 2021
Math Corps, Board of Directors, 2018 – Present
Ocean Reef Club Audit Committee, 2022 – Present
Detroit Tennis & Squash Club, Member and Past President
Recovery Incorporated (National Mental Health Organization), Past Board Member
Wayne County Jail Outreach Ministry, Board Member, 2021
Wayne State University Law School, Guest Lecturer

HONORS & AWARDS

Best Lawyers in America – 2007 – Present
Crain's Detroit Business Notable Nonprofit Board Member, 2021
Super Lawyers (Michigan) – 2006 – Present
AV Preeminent Lawyer – Peer Review Rating of 5.0 out of 5.0 (Martindale Hubbell)
Michigan Lawyers Weekly's Hall of Fame Class of 2019

