

# Municipal Law

Quality representation of local governmental bodies is the result of knowledge, economy and hard work, coupled with sensitivity to the unique character, needs, and goals of the individual communities we serve.

Municipal Law is a balance of expertise and confidence, tempered with common sense. This fundamental principal provides the core value for our Municipal Law Practice Group. Our attorneys serve as both general and special counsel for cities, villages, townships, and other local government agencies.

- Litigation
- Employment issues
- Drafting, interpretation, and enforcement of ordinances and charters
- Land use and zoning issues
- Property acquisitions and conveyances
- Facilitation of public works, including bidding, contracts, bonds, construction monitoring, and disputes
- Review and preparation of municipal policies
- Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act compliance

- Inter-government and shared service agreements
- Public water, sewer, and drainage issues
- Enforcement of construction, fire, property maintenance, and other codes
- Regulatory permits and approvals, including land use and environment wetland/woodland/storm water) matters
- Eminent domain and condemnation
- Headlee Amendment violations

We've delivered numerous successful results for our municipal clients, which include:

## Wendell Williams, Jr. v City of Inkster

In this wrongful death action in Wayne County Circuit Court, a nationally-recognized plaintiffs' law firm sued the City and individual officers for police misconduct resulting in the plaintiff's decedent's death. Despite a \$1 million Case Evaluation award in the plaintiff's favor, the court granted our Motion for Summary Disposition, dismissing the case in its entirety and with prejudice.

## Estate Development v Road Commission of Oakland County

Despite Michigan law prohibiting construction within close proximity of a wetland, the Road Commission commenced a construction project that later caused flooding of the wetlands surrounding Mirror Lake. The flooding was so significant that Estate Development's proposed development around Mirror Lake, which was previously approved by Orchard Lake Village, was destroyed. We represented the developer, and following a two-week trial against no less than six defense attorneys and a very demanding judge, we obtained a \$1.7

As Michigan municipalities face a myriad of challenges, we have the knowledge and experience to offer our clients a steady hand, aggressive defense, and creative solutions.



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