

Municipal Law



GIARMARCO, MULLINS & HORTON, P.C.

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

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GMH

ATTORNEYS AND COUNSELORS AT LAW

GMH Municipal Law Attorneys

Daniel J. Kelly *Board of Directors, Chair, Municipal and Government Law Section*

Mr. Kelly concentrates his practice in the areas of municipal and school law. He has successfully defended numerous municipalities, school districts, police agencies, police officers, employers, and insurers at all levels of the litigation process in front of the state, federal, and appellate courts. With his extensive trial experience, Mr. Kelly has been asked to serve as a court-appointed mediator and lecturer on numerous issues involving governmental entities, risk management, and liability exposure.

John C. Clark *Co-Chair, Labor and Employment Law Section*

Mr. Clark concentrates his practice in the areas of labor and employment law, servicing clients in both the public and private sector. Mr. Clark is a certified employment arbitrator through the American Arbitration Association.

Stephen L. Hitchcock *Municipal*

Mr. Hitchcock concentrates in the areas of municipal law litigation, employee benefits, and business transactions. He has extensive experience in municipal matters over the past 26 years, handling municipal government and school board issues. He also represents a number of insurance companies in litigation defense, fringe benefits, disability and other employment related litigation.

Andrew T. Baran *Board of Directors, Chair, Employment and Labor Section*

Mr. Baran concentrates his practice in the areas of labor and employment law, including NLRB proceedings, civil rights and wrongful discharge litigation, contract negotiations and arbitration.

J. Travis Mihelick *Litigation, Municipal, Employment and Labor*

Mr. Mihelick has practiced in general criminal and civil litigation, concentrating his practice in the areas of municipal litigation and labor & employment law. He also has civil litigation experience in civil rights litigation, whistleblower claims, discrimination, negligence and wrongful death cases.

Wallace G. Long *Of Counsel, Municipal*

Mr. Long has extensive experience in the governmental field, having served as a Staff Assistant to the Judiciary Committee of the U.S. Senate in Washington, D.C., Chief of Staff for the Majority Leader of the Michigan Senate, as well as Corporate Counsel to the City of Trenton and the School Employers Trust Corporation (SET-SEG, Inc.).

Experts in Related Fields

Timothy J. Mullins *Board of Directors, Chair, Litigation, Schools and Education*

Mr. Mullins has been successfully representing Michigan public school districts for more than 30 years. Mr. Mullin's representation of public school districts includes: employment discrimination, constitutional litigation, general education, special education, personal injury, serious school bus accidents, workers' compensation and more.

William H. Heritage, III *Board of Directors, Chair, Business Practice Section*

Mr. Heritage concentrates his practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, business formation, planning and transactions, corporate law, health care law and real estate law. He has 20 years of experience in dealing with complex business and commercial transactions within a broad range of industries including the representation of small to large privately-held businesses.

Kenneth B. Chapie *Labor and Employment*

Mr. Chapie practices in the area of general litigation with a focus on municipal law and business and liability claims. He has successfully represented clients at all levels of the litigation process including trial and appeals. He has represented municipalities and school districts through their insurance carriers on a wide range of issues including employment disputes, discrimination claims, civil rights actions, education law matters, police liability claims, and general liability claims.

John L. Miller *Litigation, Schools and Municipal*

Mr. Miller received the highest Bar Exam Score in the State of Michigan, July 2008. Mr. Miller graduated summa cum laude from Michigan State University College of Law. While in law school, he received National Jurisprudence Awards in Criminal Law, Evidence, Professional Responsibility, Securities Litigation, and Research, Writing, and Advocacy.

Adam Levitsky *Workers' Compensation and Municipal*

Mr. Levitsky concentrates his practice in the areas of municipal law and insurance defense litigation. He has successfully represented cities and municipalities at all levels of the litigation process. He has done city prosecution work for numerous cities. He also practices in the areas of workers' compensation defense, subrogation, general civil liability and criminal defense.

Additional Expertise

Environmental

(Air/water quality, DEQ regulation, groundwater discharge, wetlands, sewer regulation)

Freedom of Information Act

(FOIA responses, exemptions, litigation)

Liability

(Contracts, government immunity, insurance/litigation defense, risk management)

Meetings

(Closed sessions, minutes, notices, Open Meetings Act)

Municipal Finance and Bonding

(Co-counsel with Axe & Ecklund, P.C. or counsel of township's choice)

Appointments and Officers

(Conflicts of interest, duties, election, nomination/appointment, removal/vacancies)

Planning and Zoning

(Master planning, enforcement, rezoning, conditional rezoning, site plan review)

Property Taxes

(Appeals, assessment, Board of Review, Michigan Tax Tribunal, tax abatements)

Real Estate

(Easements, economic development, environmental, foreclosures, land contracts, right-of-ways)

Utilities and Telecommunications

(Cable television, electrical/gas/water, easements, permitting, rates/fees)

Municipal Law Expertise

Annexation and Boundaries

(Act 425, annexation, consolidation)

Bankruptcy and Creditor's Rights

(Collections, priority of claims, claim protection)

Charter and Ordinance

(Drafting, amendment, interpretation, revision)

Civil Rights

(ADA, Elliott-Larsen, First Amendment)

Code Enforcement

(Prosecution, building codes, zoning)

Condemnation and Eminent Domain

(Environmental, MDOT/USDOT/Oakland County Compliance, right-of-way)

Construction

(Contracts and enforcement, barrier free, financing)

Economic Development

(Brownfields, CDBG grants, DIAs/DDAs/TIFAs, tax abatements)

Elections

(Ballot proposals, petitions, primaries, referenda, voter registration)

Emergency Services

(Cost recovery, fire, first responder, police, public safety)

Employee Benefits

(Health and life insurance, MIRS, 401k, pensions)

Employment and Labor

(ADA, Civil Rights, at-will employment, collective bargaining, disability, Elliott-Larsen, lay-offs/hiring/firing, personnel policies and manuals, severance/retirement, unemployment/workers' compensation)