

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
Electronic Committee-of-the-Whole Agenda
Monday, October 26, 2020
7:00 p.m.

Mayor Robert E. Novitke has called a meeting of the City Council, meeting as a Committee-of-the-Whole. The meeting will be conducted by video (Zoom) and telephone conference in accordance with the City of Grosse Pointe Woods City Council Resolution adopted May 4, 2020. This notice is being provided to ensure that those wishing to participate in the meeting have an opportunity to do so. Additional instructions are listed below.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95701089441?pwd=TENFeUdVcjJCRDF6ZURVNk4xeE43UT09>

Meeting ID: 957 0108 9441

Passcode: 627976

Join by phone:

Dial by your location

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

Meeting ID: 957 0108 9441

Passcode: 627976

Facilitator's Statement.

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA
4. CITY ATTORNEY INTERVIEWS
 - A. 7:00 p.m. Timothy D. Tomlinson
 1. Cover Letter 10/19/20
 2. Sharing/Division of City Attorney Services Conceptual Breakdown of Responsibilities
 3. Legal Services Resume
 - B. 7:30 p.m. Thomas R. Schultz
 1. Cover Letter 10/19/20
 2. Sharing/Division of City Attorney Services Conceptual Breakdown of Responsibilities
 3. Firm Resume – Rosati Schultz Joppich Amtsbuechler, PC
 4. Professional Biographies:
 - a. Thomas R. Schultz
 - b. Lisa A. Anderson
 - c. Steven P. Joppich
 - d. Lisa J. Hamameh

e. Stephanie Simon Morita

5. NEW BUSINESS/PUBLIC COMMENT

6. ADJOURNMENT

**Lisa Kay Hathaway, MiPMC-3/MMC
City Clerk**

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH PUBLIC ACT 267 (OPEN MEETINGS ACT)
POSTED AND COPIES GIVEN TO NEWSPAPERS**

The City of Grosse Pointe Woods will provide necessary, reasonable auxiliary aids and services to individuals with disabilities. Closed captioning and audio will be provided for all electronic meetings. All additional requests must be made in advance of a meeting.

Instructions for meeting participation

1. To join through Zoom: The meeting may be joined by clicking on the link provided on the agenda at the start time posted on the agenda, enter the meeting identification number, and password. Zoom may provide a couple of additional instructions for first time use. As an alternative to using the link, accessibility to the meeting may be obtained by using the browser at join.zoom.us. If having trouble logging in, try a different browser e.g. Chrome.

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2. Join by telephone: Dial the toll-free conferencing number provided and enter the meeting identification number, and password. Dial *9 to be heard under Public Comment.

Dial by your location

888 788 0099 US Toll-free

877 853 5247 US Toll-free

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In an effort to alleviate feedback and disruption of the meeting, choose one of the media options, either phone or Zoom, not both.

Meeting notices are posted on the City of Grosse Pointe Woods website home page at www.gpwmj.us and the on-line calendar, both containing a link to the agenda. The agenda contains all pertinent information including business to be conducted at the meeting, a hyperlink to participate using Zoom, and call-in telephone number with necessary meeting identification, and a password. Agendas will also be posted on six (6) City bulletin boards along Mack Avenue.

The following are procedures by which persons may contact members of the public body to provide input or ask questions:

1. To assist with meeting flow and organization, all public comment will be taken at the end of the meeting unless it is moved to a different location on the agenda upon a consensus of the Committee;
2. The phone-in audience, when making public comment please state your name (optional) when called upon;
3. Audience participants will be muted upon entry and will have a chance to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting at the end of the agenda, at which time the microphones will be unmuted.
4. Those joining by Zoom will also be muted and may use the virtual raised “hand” to request to be heard under Public Comment.
5. Those joining by telephone need to dial in using the phone number provided on the agenda. When prompted, enter the meeting number and the password also located on the agenda. Dial *9 to be heard under Public Comment.
6. The published agenda invites participants from the community to provide written questions, comments, and concerns in advance of the meeting to any Elected Official or the City Clerk regarding relevant City business and may be read under Public Comment. Emails may be sent to:

Mayor Robert E. Novitke	mayornovitke@comcast.net	586 899-2082
Art Bryant, Council Member	arthurwbryant@gmail.com	313 885-2174
Ken Gafa, Council Member	kgafa@comcast.net	313 580-0027
Vicki Granger, Council Member	grangergpw@aol.com	313 460-5250
Mike Koester, Council Member	koester.gpw@gmail.com	313 655-4190
Todd McConaghy, Council Member	todd.mcconaghygpw@yahoo.com	248 765-0628
George McMullen, Council Member	george@grmcmullen.net	313 549-6363
Lisa Hathaway, City Clerk	lhathaway@gpwmi.us	313 343-2447

You may contact Lisa Hathaway, City Clerk, at lhathaway@gpwmi.us should you have any questions prior to the meeting starting.

cc:

Council – 7
Berschback
Smith

Hathaway
Rec. Secretary
Email Group

Media - Email
Post -8
File

NOTE TO PETITIONERS: YOU, OR A REPRESENTATIVE, ARE REQUESTED TO BE IN ATTENDANCE AT THE MEETING SHOULD COUNCIL HAVE QUESTIONS REGARDING YOUR REQUEST

YORK, DOLAN & TOMLINSON, P.C.

Attorneys and Counselors at Law
22600 Hall Road, Suite 205
Clinton Township, Michigan 48036
586-263-5050
Fax 586-263-4763

RECEIVED

OCT 19 2020

CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

4A

John A. Dolan (jdolan@yorkdolanlaw.com)
Timothy D. Tomlinson (ttomlinson@yorkdolanlaw.com)

York (1930-1989)

October 19, 2020

Ms. Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk/F.O.I.A. Coordinator
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
20025 Mack Plaza
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

RE: Retention of Legal Services

Dear Ms. Hathaway:

I have been asked to provide you with information about our law firm for the City's consideration in selecting new general counsel to provide city attorney services on an ongoing basis. Please accept this correspondence as an expression of our willingness to serve the City in such capacity should you so desire.

I have enclosed a firm resume about our firm and John (Jack) Dolan and I, the attorneys who would be involved in providing services to the City. I would be the firm's primary contact with the City.

Possible Joint Representation with Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsuechler, P.C.

We understand that we are not the only firm that the City has reached out to for firm resumes. We have spoken with Thomas Schultz of Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsuechler, P.C. Because our firms have worked well together in the past, we determined that it might be helpful to the City if we explored a collaboration or joint representation of the City. To that end, you will see our cover letters being similar so as to address similar concerns.

If the City is interested in such an arrangement, we have prepared, with Mr. Schultz, a possible list of shared city attorney services and a breakdown of who might do what. Obviously, whether to enter into such an arrangement is a decision for the City. Given our synergies, we believe the City would benefit from our joint expertise.

Ms. Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk/F.O.I.A. Coordinator
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
October 19, 2020
Page 2

General Terms of Service

Our firm would serve the City at the following *blended* hourly rates: Shareholders \$155.00 and Associates at \$145.00. Unless directed otherwise, we would bill all services on a monthly basis for the previous month's activities. Each billing will identify the attorney performing the work, the matter on which the attorney worked, a description of the work performed, and the time spent on the task. The time of legal services will be billed in increments of 1/10 (0.1) of an hour (6 minutes.) For example, if 18 minutes are spent preparing a brief letter, the charge will be 3/10 (0.3) of an hour.

It is our practice to provide our clients with a detailed description of our billing entries. This will enable the City Administration to clearly and easily identify the project that each entry relates to and exactly what work was done on that project in the amount of time identified. We believe that you should not have to guess at what services were rendered on your behalf or spend time finding out. Although we find that this practice virtually eliminates billing questions and issues, we always welcome the opportunity to discuss and address any concerns should they arise. Furthermore, our billing system allows flexibility in terms of how billings are formatted and organized. As such, upon request, we will do everything we can to customize our billing statements in a manner that will assist the City Administration in effectively and efficiently processing them.

Of additional note, our firm carries a professional liability insurance policy in the amount of \$2,000,000.00 per occurrence/\$2,000,000.00 per aggregate through Aspen American Insurance Company. A copy of our Certificate of Liability Insurance will be provided upon request at any time. If the City decides to proceed with our firm as its legal counsel, for this we will remain insured for legal malpractice with these policy limits throughout our representation of the City.

With regard to the duration of our representation, we do not believe it appropriate to bind the City, as a client, to our firm for any period of time. As such, the City may terminate our services at any time, with or without advance notice, and for any reason or no reason at all. However, in the unlikely event that we were to discontinue our relationship, we would provide the City at least thirty (30) days advance written notice to give the City an opportunity to find new representation, as long as our Rules of Professional Conduct do not direct otherwise.

As a final matter, the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct indicate that my firm and I carry certain ethical obligations to avoid conflicts with existing, former, and prospective clients. In anticipation of potentially being retained by the City, we have checked our firm's data base and


Ms. Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk/F.O.I.A. Coordinator
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
October 19, 2020
Page 3

have not identified any potential conflicts of interest relative to the City other than representation of the Southeast Macomb Disposal Authority of which the City is indirectly associated with through its affiliation with the Milk River Drainage District. If any conflict should arise, directly or indirectly, we would promptly notify the City of same.

We would be honored to serve the City of Grosse Pointe Woods as its legal counsel, and we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit these materials to you for consideration. If the City desires to retain our services as provided in this letter, please sign in the space provided below and return a copy to my attention.

Very truly yours,

YORK, DOLAN & TOMLINSON, P.C.



Timothy D. Tomlinson

TDT/jabh

Accepted:
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS

BY: _____

ITS: _____

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS
SHARING/DIVISION OF CITY ATTORNEY SERVICES
CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

This document outlines a possible splitting up of City Attorney services for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods between two law firms – York, Dolan, & Tomlinson, PC (YDT) and Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amstbuechler, PC (RSJA). The categories listed track the general duties performed by general counsel on behalf of local municipalities.

YDT

- Municipal Court (Prosecutions)
 - Department of Public Safety
- Planning and Zoning
 - Planning Office, including day-to-day advice, zoning ordinance review/drafting and enforcement
 - Planning Commission, advise and attend meetings
- Building Department
 - Construction code analysis and advice
 - Enforcement of state and local construction codes
- Public Works
 - DPW assistance, day-to-day
 - Engineering
 - Plan review
 - Water and Sewer
 - Contract review
 - Ordinance drafting and review
 - Backups
 - Coordinate with GLWA, Detroit, Wayne County

RSJA

- General City Administration
 - All aspects of general city administration
 - Department assistance day-to-day for
 - City Administrator
 - HR (see below)
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Finance
 - Clerk (FOIA, elections, notices)
 - Assessor
 - Contract review
 - General ordinance drafting and review
- Attend City Council meetings
- Zoning Board of Appeals, advise and attend meetings
- Litigation (not covered by insurance)
- MTT

Labor/Employment – For discussion

LEGAL SERVICES RESUME
ON BEHALF OF
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS

Timothy D. Tomlinson
John A. Dolan
YORK, DOLAN & TOMLINSON, P.C.
22600 Hall Road, Suite 205
Clinton Township, Michigan 48036
Phone: 586-263-5050
Fax: 586-263-4763
ttomlinson@yorkdolanlaw.com
jdolan@yorkdolanlaw.com

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY.

Mission Statement and Guiding Principles

Our mission statement and guiding principles are built upon the cornerstones of integrity and hard work. Approximately 80 percent of our work is governmental. Our guiding principles include a pro-active approach, a same-face approach, an emphasis on client communication and an avoidance of encroachment upon administrative and policy-making prerogative.

We have always emphasized a pro-active approach. We attempt to foresee outcomes from decision-making processes and evaluate whether they will evolve into potential problems, including potential litigation. Issues are evaluated, examining risk probability and risk tolerance. We attempt to scrutinize the nature and length of potential problems as well as the real cost to the municipality. We believe these tactics have reduced litigation expense in the communities we represent.

We follow a same-face approach. Tim Tomlinson and John "Jack" Dolan will be the two attorneys that the administration, department heads and councilmembers encounter. Tim Tomlinson will be the primary attorney with responsibility to the City. We believe such an approach provides better oversight and avoids problems involving the sufficiency of follow through. It has been our experience that seamless representation can be provided by two experienced partners furnishing legal services.

We emphasize open and immediate client communication. We attempt to focus on the quality of communication. Clearly understanding a client's concerns and communicating thought processes in a concise and understandable manner which allows administrators and policymakers to appropriately act upon and rely upon information is essential.

We are vigilant in avoiding encroachment into the authority exercised by administrators and policymakers. We will suggest a pro-active approach and if approved, will work closely with the administrator or policymaker to execute that approach. We will not make recommendations or undertake tasks unless we are clearly instructed to do so and the scope of the undertaking is well-defined and understood.

2. FIRM ATTORNEYS.

Attorney Timothy D. Tomlinson

Licensed attorney for over 23 years. Appeared and orally argued before the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan Court of Appeals, Federal District Court, and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Representation in all areas of municipal law. Tried to conclusion an extensive number of cases involving municipal-related issues. Michigan State University, B.A. Public Administration, 1992; Detroit College of Law, J.D. Cum Laude, 1996.

Attorney John A. Dolan

Licensed attorney for over 40 years. Tried to conclusion numerous cases involving municipal issues in Michigan and Federal Courts. Appeared and orally argued before the Michigan Supreme Court, the Michigan Court of Appeals, Federal District Court, and Federal Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. Representation in all areas of municipal law. Serves Macomb County Circuit Court as a neutral mediator for in excess of 25 years. University of Illinois, B.A. with distinction, 1974; Wayne State University, J.D., 1977.

Both Mr. Dolan and Mr. Tomlinson have been with the same firm their entire legal careers.

3. HISTORY OF FIRM.

YORK, DOLAN & TOMLINSON, P.C. is an outgrowth of several predecessor firms. In 1969, the law firm of Towner, Rosin, York & McNamara was formed. In approximately 1979, the law firm split up and a law firm known as Fred York & Associates, P.C. was formed. Approximately 4 years later, that firm changed its name and became known as York & Dolan, P.C. In 1989, Mr. York passed away. In 1990, Joseph Ciaramitaro became associated with the firm and the firm, a short time later, changed its name to York, Dolan and Ciaramitaro, P.C. At the end of 2001, Joseph Ciaramitaro left the firm and the firm was renamed YORK, DOLAN & TOMLINSON, P.C.

4. CONTACT INFORMATION.

York, Dolan & Tomlinson, P.C.
22600 Hall Road, Suite 205
Clinton Township, MI 48036

(On the southside of Hall Road between Elizabeth Road and Groesbeck Highway.)

telephone: (586) 263-5050
facsimile: (586) 263-4763
ttomlinson@yorkdolanlaw.com

5. **HOURS OF ACCESSIBILITY.**

Mr. Tomlinson and Mr. Dolan will be accessible, either at the office or through mobile telephone. For emergency purposes, they will be accessible 24-hours a day through mobile phone numbers.

6. **RESPONSIVENESS.**

The standard time frame to respond to directions or inquiries from the City Council or City Personnel will be to respond as soon as possible to telephone calls, which in virtually all cases, will be on the day the call is made, more often than not, within one hour. When matters require research, generally, an initial impression can be provided within 24 to 48 hours depending on the complexity of the matter. If the circumstances are an emergency, shorter time frames can be met.

7. **RESPONDENT'S QUALIFICATIONS.**

As municipal attorneys, we have a broad range of experience dealing in all aspects of municipal law. Municipal law represents approximately 80% of our work performed.

<u>Municipal Clients</u>	<u>Continuously Since</u>
Charter Township of Clinton	1977
City of Roseville	1992
City of New Baltimore	2002
Chippewa Valley Schools	2005
41B District Court	2007
Macomb Intermediate School District	2008

We also serve a number of smaller authorities, including the Recreation Authority of Roseville-Eastpointe, South Macomb Disposal Authority and Southeast Macomb Sanitary District.

8. **AREAS OF EXPERTISE.**

The following is a brief detail of experience in various municipal areas:

Department or Function

Assessing. Handling of tax appeals before the Michigan Tax Tribunal. Assistance in matters involving the Michigan State Tax Commission. Assistance in the preparation and review of resolutions involving industrial facilities tax abatements. Review and interpretation of statutes.

Building. Review and interpretation of State statutes. Assistance in enforcement, both at the District Court level and in Circuit Court, including appeals.

Capital Improvements. Assistance in determining needs. Reviewing contracts. Exploring and establishing financing mechanisms.

City Clerk. Election-related issues and all issues pertaining to the operation of the Clerk's office, including Michigan Freedom of Information Act requests and Open Meetings Act compliance.

City Development. Assistance with the Planning Department with respect to the establishment, review and amendment of Master Plans and Zoning Ordinances. Assistance with respect to the establishment of Downtown Development Authorities, Brownfield Authorities and other development-related areas permitted under applicable statutes. Assistance with water and sewer and environmental-related issues.

District Court. Currently responsible for complaint review, preparation of complaints and warrants, prosecutions in the City of Roseville (since 1992) and the City of New Baltimore (since June, 2002). We have handled all aspects of municipal prosecutions, including pre-trials, motions, bench and jury trials.

Engineering. Draft and review contracts for retention of outside consulting engineers. Draft and review easements. Consultation and review with regard to contractual water and sewer issues involving the Great Lakes Water Authority. Assistance and review, preparation and interpretation of contract documents and the establishment of ordinances.

Finance. Review and provide opinions with respect to interpretation of applicable laws.

Fire Department. Assistance with regard to Emergency Management, First Responder, Advanced Life Support, mutual aid, collective bargaining, employee relations, litigation and training procedures.

General Administration. Preparation and review of contracts. Review and interpretation of various statutes. Development and review of policies and procedures. All aspects of general administration.

Major Roads. Acquisition of right of way. Highway liability claims. Contract supervision and review. Rules and regulations regarding right of way. Review and interpretation of statutes.

Personnel/Labor Relations. Handling grievances, matters before the Michigan Employment Relations Commission, collective bargaining, Act 312 arbitration, arbitration, Act 78 Police and Fire, police department trial board proceedings.

Planning Commission. Advice and opinions to the Planning Commission, review of procedures.

Planning Office. Advice and opinions to the Planning Office, including ordinance update and review.

Police Department. Handling of police discipline. Assistance and review, preparation of internal regulations and rules. Handling of labor arbitration and police and fire civil service matters.

Purchasing. Review and interpretation with respect to applicable laws. Reviewing applicability of purchasing regulations in particular circumstances.

Self-Insurance/Lawsuits. Currently handle bodily and personal injury claims for the Charter Township of Clinton and City of Roseville, including areas such as highway liability, automobile accidents, slip and fall, sexual harassment, sex discrimination, excessive force, zoning (including taking damage claims), various other damage claims under common law tort theories or constitutionally dimensioned. Handling litigation on a variety of subjects.

Telecommunications/Cable. Negotiation of cable franchises, drafting of ordinances relating to cable television and telecommunication permits. Review of policies and procedures and applicable law.

Water and Sewer. Review of contracts and administration with respect to installation of water and sewer improvements. Review of ordinances. General administration of Department. Review of claims relating to water and sewer back-ups. Review of issues with Great Lakes Water Authority and the State of Michigan.

Zoning Board of Appeals. Advice and opinions to Zoning Board of Appeals. Attendance at selected Zoning Board of Appeals meetings. Handling of appeals from the Zoning Board of Appeals to the Macomb County Circuit Court.

Zoning/Code Enforcement. Assistance in commencement of proceedings in both District and Circuit Court. Furnishing advice and counsel.

9. **CLIENT REFERENCES.**

Robert Taylor, Mayor, City of Roseville

29777 Gratiot Avenue, P.O. Box 290, Roseville, MI 48066

Phone: (586) 445-4510

Contract since 1992 for legal services handling all municipal matters. Timothy Tomlinson is lead attorney. All staff participates in representation.

Scott Adkins, City Manager, City of Roseville

29777 Gratiot Avenue, P.O. Box 290, Roseville, MI 48066

Phone: (586) 445-4510

Contract since 1992 for legal services handling all municipal matters. Timothy Tomlinson is lead attorney. All staff participates in representation.

John Dupray, Mayor, City of New Baltimore

36535 Green Street, New Baltimore, MI 48047

Phone: (586) 725-2121

Contract since 2002 for legal services handling litigation and general counsel work. Tim Tomlinson is lead attorney. All staff participates in representation.

Ronald Roberts, Superintendent, Chippewa Valley Schools

19120 Cass Avenue, Clinton Township, MI 48038

Phone: (586) 723-2005

Contract since 2005 for legal services as general counsel. Timothy Tomlinson is lead attorney. All staff participates in representation.

RECEIVED
OCT 19 2020
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS
CLERK'S DEPARTMENT

THOMAS R. SCHULTZ
tschultz@rsjalaw.com

27555 Executive Drive, Suite 250
Farmington Hills, Michigan 48331
P 248.489.4100 | F 248.489.1726
rsjalaw.com



ROSATI | SCHULTZ
JOPPICH | AMTSBUECHLER

October 19, 2020

Ms. Lisa Kay Hathaway
City Clerk/FOIA Coordinator
City of Grosse Pointe Woods
20025 Mack Plaza
Grosse Pointe Woods, MI 48236

RE: Retention of Legal Services

Dear Ms. Hathaway:

I have been asked to provide you with information about our law firm for the City's consideration in selecting new general counsel to provide city attorney services on an ongoing basis. I have enclosed a firm resume describing our firm, along with the professional biographies of the attorneys who would be involved in providing services to the City. I would also invite you to visit our website at www.rsjalaw.com for more information and news about our firm.

Lisa Anderson and I would be the firm's primary contacts with the City, but others involved would include Lisa Hamameh, Steve Joppich, and Stephanie Morita. We use a "team" approach for representing our clients; while we all have areas of municipal law we concentrate in, everyone in the firm pitches in as needed.

Possible Joint Representation with York, Dolan & Tomlinson

We understand that we are not the only firm that the City has reached out to for firm resumes. We have spoken with Tim Tomlinson of York, Dolan & Tomlinson. Because our firms have worked well together in the past, and because the City has used both our services in the past, we determined that it might be helpful to the City if we explored a collaboration or joint representation of the City. To that end, you will see our cover letters being similar so as to address similar concerns.

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Our firm carries a professional liability insurance policy in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 per occurrence/\$5,000,000.00 per aggregate and a commercial general liability policy in the amount of \$1,000,000 per occurrence/\$2,000,000 aggregate through Professional Concepts Insurance Agency, Inc. A copy of our Certificate of Liability Insurance would be provided upon request at any time. If the City decides to proceed with our firm as its legal counsel, we will remain insured for legal malpractice with these policy limits throughout our representation of the City.

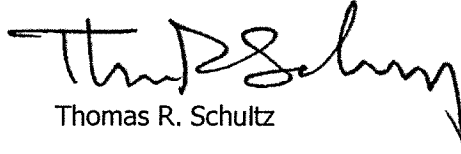
With regard to the duration of our representation, we do not believe it appropriate to bind the City, as a client, to our firm for any period of time. As such, the City may terminate our services at any time, with or without advance notice, and for any reason or no reason at all. However, in the unlikely event that we were to discontinue our relationship, we would provide the City at least thirty (30) days advance written notice to give the City an opportunity to find new representation, as long as our Rules of Professional Conduct do not direct otherwise.

As a final matter, the Michigan Rules of Professional Conduct indicate that my firm and I carry certain ethical obligations to avoid conflicts with existing, former, and prospective clients. In anticipation of potentially being retained by the City, we have checked our firm's data base and have not identified any conflicts of interest relative to the City.

We would be honored to serve the City of Grosse Pointe Woods as its legal counsel, and we sincerely appreciate the opportunity to submit these materials to you for consideration. If the City desires to retain our services as provided in this letter, please sign in the space provided below and return a copy to my attention.

Very truly yours,

ROSATI SCHULTZ JOPPICH
& AMTSBUECHLER PC



Thomas R. Schultz

TRS/jah
Enclosure

Accepted:
CITY OF GROSSE POINTE WOODS

BY: _____

ITS: _____

**GROSSE POINTE WOODS
SHARING/DIVISION OF CITY ATTORNEY SERVICES
CONCEPTUAL BREAKDOWN OF RESPONSIBILITIES**

This document outlines a possible splitting up of City Attorney services for the City of Grosse Pointe Woods between two law firms – York, Dolan, & Tomlinson, PC (YDT) and Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC (RSJA). The categories listed track the general duties performed by general counsel on behalf of local municipalities.

YDT

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 - Enforcement of state and local construction codes
- Public Works
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 - Engineering
 - Plan review
 - Water and Sewer
 - Contract review
 - Ordinance drafting and review
 - Backups
 - Coordinate with GLWA, Detroit, Wayne County

RSJA

- General City Administration
 - All aspects of general city administration
 - Department assistance day-to-day for
 - City Administrator
 - HR (see below)
 - Parks and Recreation
 - Finance
 - Clerk (FOIA, elections, notices)
 - Assessor
 - Contract review
 - General ordinance drafting and review
- Attend City Council meetings
- Zoning Board of Appeals, advise and attend meetings
- Litigation (not covered by insurance)
- MTT

Labor/Employment – For discussion



**ROSATI | SCHULTZ
JOPPICH | AMTSBUECHLER**

*Law Firm Overview
for
City of Grosse Pointe Woods*

October 19, 2020

Submitted by:
Rosati, Schultz, Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC

27555 Executive Drive, Suite 250
Farmington Hills, MI 48331-3550
P 248.489.4100
F 248.489.1726

RSJALAW.COM

OUR LAW FIRM

Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC is a full-service municipal law firm of 25 lawyers. We are a municipal law firm, first and foremost. All of our attorneys concentrate their practices in areas relating to the representation of local governmental entities. Our law firm originated in 1993 with 11 lawyers who had a shared goal of offering the highest quality and most cost-effective legal counsel to public service and governmental agencies throughout the State of Michigan. Over the years we have grown to include lawyers who can provide virtually every legal service required by a local government. We are fully committed to serving communities by helping elected and appointed officials effectively, efficiently, and lawfully perform their duties and serve their residents. It's what we do, all day every day.

The attorneys in our firm have established a reputation for providing sound, well-reasoned, and circumspective legal advice and representation to local governments throughout the state. As such, we are able to provide the City of Grosse Pointe Woods with an unmatched group of experienced and dedicated attorneys who can provide all of the day-to-day legal services required to achieve the objectives you retain us to assist with. As indicated in our proposal letter, Tom Schultz would be designated as the lead attorney for the City, and he would have the support of the other 24 municipal law specialists in our firm behind him should the need arise. Please feel free to explore our website at www.rsjalaw.com where you can review the professional biographies of all of our municipal law attorneys, and also learn more about our firm.

Our firm and its attorneys are highly regarded within the profession. *U.S. News & World Report – Best Lawyers* has recognized Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsbuechler, PC as a Tier 1 Firm in the Litigation-Municipal category for the years 2013-2020. Additionally, nine attorneys with the firm have been named to the *Best Lawyers in America* list by one of the nation's widest-used lawyer ranking systems, with several having been designated "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers in the area of Municipal Law. Also, multiple attorneys have been awarded the highest ranking of "AV Preeminent" by Martindale-Hubbell, which is considered the most recognized Peer Ranking organization among lawyers; ten attorneys have been named *Super Lawyers* in the areas of municipal law, land use/zoning, and/or litigation, by the national legal publisher Thomson Reuters; and six attorneys have been named *Top Lawyers* in Southeastern Michigan's *Hour Magazine* and *Dbusiness* in the areas of municipal law, land use/zoning, or constitutional law.



We have made it a priority to align our goals with those that we serve. At RSJA, living the practical side of government is a daily occurrence. Our attorneys presently hold a variety of public offices in their own communities. These include a City Councilmember, a Planning Commission Member, two Zoning Board of Appeals members, as well as two past mayors and other current and past volunteer positions in their communities. Our willingness to contribute in our own neighborhoods further motivates us to stay current on the latest legal developments so that we can pass that information on to our clients at no extra cost.

As a way to give back to our profession of municipal law and the Michigan communities we represent, we also regularly author books, articles, and other periodicals to keep those involved in public service up to speed on frequently changing and "hot" issues affecting particular areas of the law. Tom Schultz, Carol Rosati, and Steve Joppich have all co-authored chapters in the book *Michigan Municipal Law* (2012, updated 2018), a comprehensive practice book for municipal lawyers and municipal officials in the State of Michigan. Carol Rosati also authored and edited *Michigan Zoning, Planning and Land Use* (2010), and Tom Schultz and Steve Joppich are the past co-editors of the *Public Corporation Law Quarterly*, the professional publication of the State Bar of Michigan relating to municipal law. Both Steve Joppich and Tom Schultz have been contributing authors in the *Michigan Planning and Zoning News*, which is subscribed to by planning and zoning officials across the State of Michigan.

Each year RSJA attorneys can also be counted on to present seminars for the Michigan Township Association (MTA), Michigan Municipal League and its Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MML-MAMA), Institute for Continuing Legal Education, Government Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Municipal Law Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association, Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA), National Public Risk Managers Association (PRIMA), Michigan Public Risk Managers Association, National Association of Governmental Risk Pools, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Regional Police Academies, the Michigan Sheriff's Association, Michigan Township Supervisors Association, the Michigan Society of Real Estate Appraisers, Michigan Society of Planning Officials, and the Michigan Local Government Managers Association.

Our firm utilizes a proactive approach to cost-effectively help manage our clients' risks and liabilities. For example, attorneys from our firm co-authored the FOIA Coordinator Handbook,



which was published and is distributed by the MMRMA to public officials across the State of Michigan to assist them in their efforts to comply with the often daunting public disclosure requirements contained in that law. Also, four attorneys from RSJA have appeared in and contributed to "Anatomy of a Lawsuit," a training DVD produced by the MMRMA which involved a hypothetical "dramatization" of a typical civil case, geared toward providing non-lawyers with an idea of what to expect if they ever became a party to litigation. The film received a first-place award in the pool category from the National PRIMA.

Additionally, Rosati Schultz Joppich & Amtsbuechler, P.C. was selected in 2012 by *American Milestones* for a special feature educational segment on municipal law for Public Television. You may view the segment on our website at <https://www.rsjalaw.com/news/page/4/>.

THANK YOU!

We appreciate the opportunity to present this proposal to serve the City of Grosse Pointe Woods community. If you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to Tom Schultz at (248) 345-8810.



Thomas R. Schultz

Thomas R. Schultz is a shareholder in the firm and has concentrated his practice in municipal law for over 25 years. He is currently the City Attorney for the City of Novi, the City of Farmington, and the City of Sylvan Lake. He provides general counsel services to several other Oakland County communities including the City of Farmington Hills. Tom assists these communities and others with day-to-day legal work: reviewing and administering contracts, handling land use and development issues, assisting with FOIA and OMA compliance, property taxation and special assessments, property maintenance/nuisance abatement and ordinance prosecutions, public works support, and the acquisition of land for public purposes.



Tom has been regularly involved in litigation at all levels on issues affecting local governments, including in the state district, circuit, and appellate courts, and in the federal trial and appellate courts, as well as before various state administrative entities such as the Michigan Tax Tribunal. He has argued several cases on behalf of municipalities before the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, the Michigan Supreme Court, and the Michigan Court of Appeals. Thomas has authored or co-authored several appellate amicus (or "friend of the court") briefs on local governmental issues for the Michigan Municipal League, the Government Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan and the American Society of Planners.

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Practice Areas

- General Municipal Law
- Zoning and Land Use
- Constitutional Law and Civil Rights
- Real Estate and Construction

Education

- University of Detroit School of Law, J.D., 1988
- University of Detroit, B.A., 1985

Professional Activities/Memberships

- Michigan Municipal League Legal Defense Fund
Board Member, 2011-present (Current President)
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys
Board Member, 2011-present (Current Chair)
- State Bar of Michigan
Government Law and Real Estate Sections
- Oakland County Bar Association
Municipal Law Committee

Awards

- Named in Leading Lawyers Michigan Edition--Governmental, Municipal, Lobbying & Administrative Law; Land Use, Zoning & Condemnation Law and Real Estate Law: Commercial, 2017-2020
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America in the areas of Litigation-Municipal and Municipal Law, 2009-2020
- Listed in Best Lawyers, Litigation: Municipal, Troy area "Lawyer of the Year", 2016, 2019
- Listed in Best Lawyers, Litigation: Municipal, Detroit area "Lawyer of the Year", 2014
- Selected to Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers, 2006-2020
- Listed in Top Lawyers, DBusiness and Hour Magazine, in the area of Municipal Law, 2009-2019
- Received the Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award from the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, 2010

Publications

- Co-Author with Gerald A. Fisher of Chapter 2, "Limitations on Local Government Under Federal Constitution and Laws," Michigan Municipal Law, 2012, updated 2018
- Authored "Reinventing Michigan 2011 — Don't Forget the Public Interest" for Legal Briefs, a publication of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, 2011
- Authored "Michigan Supreme Court Narrows the Applicability of the RLUIPA in Zoning Cases," for Planning and Zoning News, 2007
- Authored "It's Not About *Kelo*: The Eminent Domain Ballot Proposal" in Planning and Zoning News, 2006
- Authored "*Kelo v. New London*: Economic Development A 'Public Use' for Which Eminent Domain May be Exercised — Just Not in Michigan," for Planning and Zoning News, 2005
- Authored "Closest to the People: In Defense of Home Rule for Local Governments," in Laches, the Oakland County Bar Association's monthly publication, 2003

Presentations/Courses Taught

- MAMA/PCLS, "Limitations on Local Government Under Federal Constitution and Laws," March 18, 2016
- MAMA/PCLS, "Hot Topics in Planning and Zoning: Koontz v. St. John's River Water Management District," March 18, 2014
- Michigan Local Government Management Association, "Dealing with 'Zombie' Developments: Half-Finished Subdivisions, Empty Office parks, Abandoned Strip Malls," February 10, 2010
- Real Property Law Section, "Homeward Bound" — the Site Condominium Approval Process, February 1, 2007
- MAMA/PCLS, "Hot Topics in Municipal Law: Current Issues on the Eminent Domain Front," February 16, 2006
- Public Corporation Law Section Annual Winter Seminar, "Silver Linings in Wayne County v. Hathcock," February 11, 2005

Lisa A. Anderson

Lisa A. Anderson is a shareholder with the firm, practicing in the areas of municipal law, land use, zoning, constitutional law, and trial and appellate advocacy. Lisa has successfully represented the interests of and has secured victories for governmental entities in trial and appellate courts across the state. Her areas of expertise include the defense of constitutional law claims involving land use and zoning disputes, First Amendment claims, takings, due process, equal protection, police civil rights actions, as well as employment claims, ordinance challenges, code enforcement, claims involving qualified and governmental immunity, among others. In addition to a robust litigation and appellate practice, Lisa represents municipalities and governmental entities on boards and commissions, provides guidance on the Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, FCC and telecommunications issues, and provides general counsel services on a broad range of municipal issues.



As a former law clerk in trial and appellate courts at the state and federal level, Lisa leverages her knowledge of the internal workings of the courts to advocate for her clients. She is a long-time member of her local planning commission, zoning board of appeals, and board of review and understands the unique challenges faced by public boards and commissions.

Lisa was appointed to the Board of Directors for the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel (MDTC), a leading association of lawyers dedicated to the defense of individuals and entities in civil litigation. She Co-Chairs the Municipal & Governmental Liability Section of the MDTC and is the former Chair of the Municipal Law Committee for the Oakland County Bar Association. Lisa regularly authors articles for leading publications on issues that affect governmental entities and municipal law.

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Practice Areas

- General Municipal Law
- Zoning and Land Use
- Constitutional Law and Civil Rights
- Appellate Advocacy
- Insurance Defense

Education

- University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 1996
- Michigan State University, B.S., 1987

Professional Activities/Memberships

- Michigan Defense Trial Counsel
Board Member, 2020 - present
Co-Chair, Municipal & Governmental Liability Section, 2019-present
- Oakland County Bar Association
Chair, Municipal Law Committee, 2016-2017
Vice Chair, Municipal Law Committee, 2015-2016
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys
- State Bar of Michigan
Government Law Section
Appellate Practice
Administrative Law
- American Bar Association
- Federal Bar Association

Publications/Presentations

- Author, "The First Amendment and Local Government Use of Social Media," State Bar of Michigan, 2020
- Author, "From Gas Stations to Growlers: New Liquor Laws Change the Way We Buy and Sell Booze," Laches, published by the Oakland County Bar Association, January 2018
- Author, Municipal Law Updates, Planning and Zoning News, 2014 – present
- Author, Municipal Law Updates, Michigan Defense Quarterly, quarterly publication of the Michigan Defense Trial Counsel, 2018-2020
- Author, "New FAA Drone Regulations: What You Need to Know," Laches, published by the Oakland County Bar Association, October 2016
- Presenter, "The New Law on Signs," Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, March 2019
- Presenter, "Sign Regulation after Reed v Town of Gilbert," Michigan Association of Code Enforcement Officers, June 2017
- Co-Organizer and Moderator, "Substance Abuse in our Cities and Suburbs," Oakland County Bar Association, May 2017

Community Activities/Involvement

- Northville Township Planning Commission
Former Chair and current Commission Member, 1999 to 2007; 2014 to present
- Northville Township Zoning Board of Appeals
Board Member, 1999 to 2007; 2013-2016
- Northville Township Board of Review
Board Member, 1998-1999

Steven P. Joppich

Steven P. Joppich has devoted his legal career to representing the interests of governmental entities. Since 1994, he has assisted local governments throughout Michigan with a variety of legal issues both in and out of the courtroom. As a result, Steve has gained substantial experience in a diverse and broad cross section of municipal law, with the following being a sampling of his municipal law practice:

- General and special counsel to cities, townships & villages
- Zoning, land use and planning law
- Development issues
- Public property purchases, sales, leases & development
- Medical and recreational marihuana
- Public works (water, sewer, storm, roads, rate challenges, etc.)
- Wetland and natural resource/preservation techniques
- Signs and billboards
- Contracts
- Ordinance drafting
- Freedom of Information Act
- Open Meetings Act
- Intergovernmental agreements and authorities
- Libraries
- Constitutional law (due process, takings, equal protection, free speech, etc.)
- Corridor improvement authorities (CIAs)
- Tax increment financing (TIFs)
- Special assessment districts (SADs)
- Tax abatements
- Historic districts
- Parks and recreation
- Lake boards
- Election law
- Adult business regulations
- Code enforcement
- Blighted properties and dangerous buildings
- Condemnation/eminent domain
- Riparian rights
- Oil, gas, and mineral rights & regulation
- Annexation, 425 Agreements, charters & incorporations



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Education

- Detroit College of Law (now Michigan State University College of Law), J.D.
- University of Michigan, B.A.

Professional Activities/Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan - Government Law Section
Current Councilmember (2009-present), Past Chairperson (2018-2019)
- State Bar of Michigan - Real Estate Law Section
Current Member

- State Bar of Michigan – Marihuana Law Section
Current Member
- Oakland County Bar Association - Municipal Law Committee
Current Member, Past-Chairperson (two terms)
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys
Current Member
- Michigan Municipal League
Current Member
- Michigan Townships Association
Current Member
- Michigan State Bar Foundation
Fellow
- Oakland County Bar Foundation
Fellow
- Catholic Society of Lawyers
Current Member
- State of Michigan – Marihuana Regulatory Agency Licensing Stakeholder Workgroup
Appointee

Admitted to Practice

- All courts in the State of Michigan
- United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

Awards

- Designated "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers, Municipal Law, 2014, 2015, 2019
- Listed in Best Lawyers in America, Litigation-Municipal, 2018-2021
- Listed in The Best Lawyers in America, Litigation-Real Estate and Municipal Law, 2012-2021
- Selected to Super Lawyers by Thomson Reuters, 2007-2020
- Named Top Lawyer by DBusiness and Hour Magazine, Municipal Law, 2011-2020
- Named in Leading Lawyers Michigan Edition--Land Use, Zoning & Condemnation Law and Real Estate Law: Commercial, 2019
- "AV Preeminent" ranking with Martindale-Hubbell, which is the highest possible ranking by the most recognized, peer review rating for attorneys.
- Member of the inaugural class of inductees into the Academy of Michigan Municipal Attorneys by the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys under the Michigan Municipal League, September 2012 - present)

Publications/Presentations

- Co-Author of the *Michigan Municipal Law* book published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education, 2012, updated 2018
- Speaker at multiple seminars of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys Association (MAMA), Michigan Townships Association (MTA), Government Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan, Michigan Association of Code Enforcement Officials (MACEO), Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) and Oakland County Bar Association
- Co-Editor of the *Public Corporation Law Quarterly*, a publication of the Government Law Section of the Michigan Bar Association, 2007-2017
- Author of published article for *The Review*, a publication of the Michigan Municipal League (MML) (2020)

- Author of published articles for *Public Corporation Law Quarterly*, 2009-2011
- Author of published articles for *Laches*, a publication of the Oakland County Bar Association, 2007-2011
- Author of a published article for *Smart Business Magazine*, 2011
- Author of a published article for the *Michigan Planning & Zoning News*, 2011
- Regular contributing author of reports regarding recent cases in the *Michigan Planning & Zoning News*, 2007-2018
- Regularly provides training seminars for individual planning commissions, zoning boards of appeals, and other municipal boards, commissions and councils

Community Involvement

- Xemplar Club of Farmington/Farmington Hills (non-profit community service organization)
Active Member, Past President
- Community Homes (nonprofit charitable organization for people with developmental disabilities)
Board of Directors
- Coach, Manager and Volunteer in youth sporting programs

Lisa J. Hamameh

Lisa J. Hamameh practices primarily municipal law, land use and zoning, Condominium and Homeowners' Association law.

She earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice from Wayne State University in 1995 and is a 2000 graduate of Wayne State University Law School.

Lisa has been recognized by Michigan *Super Lawyers* for seven consecutive years – in 2011 and 2012 she was recognized as a "Rising Star" and from 2013-2018 she was included as a "Super Lawyer" for Government, Cities and Municipalities. She was also selected for *Best Lawyers in America*® 2016-2020 in municipal law and as a Top Lawyer for *dbusiness* in 2014, 2017-2020. In 2014, Lisa was selected for the 2014 class of "Women in the Law" by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*. Additionally, in 2011, she was awarded the Frances R. Avadenka Memorial Award by the Oakland County Bar Association, for her contributions to the community outside of the legal profession.



She is a frequent presenter at the Michigan Townships Association's Annual Conference & Expo. She is a guest speaker at the White Lake Citizen's Academy – Judicial Night. Lisa presents training sessions for municipal clients relative to parliamentary procedure, zoning and land use, ordinance enforcement, municipal civil infractions and criminal law updates.

Lisa is the co-author of a chapter on Liquor Licensing in the Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education's publication *Michigan Municipal Law*, 2012; and a chapter on Plea Bargaining in *Michigan Criminal Procedure*, 2010. Hamameh authored the cover story for the Michigan Townships Association's March 2016 publication *Michigan Township Focus* titled "What's Brewing with Liquor License Regulation." She authored an article for the Oakland County Bar Association's publication *Laches*, titled "Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign" and co-authored an article for the same publication titled "Municipal Prosecutions 101."

In 2018, Lisa was elected to serve on the State Bar of Michigan's (SBM) Board of Commissioners. The SBM Board of Commissioners provide oversight to the State Bar on finance, public policy, professional standards and member services and communications. SBM is the governing body for the 42,000-plus lawyers in the State of Michigan.

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Practice Areas

- General Municipal Law
- Prosecutions and Ordinance Enforcement
- Zoning and Land Use
- Real Estate and Construction

Education

- Wayne State University Law School, JD
- Wayne State University, B.S., Criminal Justice

Professional Activities/Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan
Commissioner District I (2018-2021)
Young Lawyers Section, Executive Council Member (2018-2010)
Criminal Law Section, Member
Real Estate Section, Member
Government Law Section, Member
Character & Fitness Committee – District I (2014-2018)
- Michigan State Bar Foundation
Fellow
- Oakland County Bar Foundation
Board of Trustees, Member
Fellow
- Oakland County Bar Association
American Inns of Court (2003-2007)
Municipal Law Committee, Chair (2005-2006); Member (2003 – present)
New Lawyers Committee, Director (2003-2010)
Membership Committee, Chair (2010-2012); Member (2009-2018)
- Macomb County Bar Association (2000 – present)
- American Bar Association (2000 – present)
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys
Member

Admitted to Practice

- Michigan

Awards

- Listed in the Best Lawyers in America, Municipal Law, 2016-2020
- Names in as a Top Lawyer by dBusiness, 2014, 2017-2020
- Selected to Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers for Government, Cities and Municipalities, 2013-2019
- Selected to Thomson Reuters Super Lawyers Rising Stars in Government, Cities and Municipalities, 2011-2012
- Listed in Lawyers Weekly "Women in the Law", 2014
- Awarded the Frances R. Avadenka Memorial Award by the Oakland County Bar Association for contributions to the community outside of the legal profession, 2011

Publications/Presentations

- Publication: **What's Brewing with Liquor License Regulation**, Michigan Township Focus, March 2016

- Publication: **Sign, Sign, Everywhere a Sign**, Laches, October 1, 2013
- Publication: **Municipal Prosecutions 101**, Laches, 2013
- Publication: **Chapter on Liquor Licensing**, Michigan ICLE: Michigan Municipal Law, 2012
- Publication: **Chapter on Plea Bargaining**, Michigan ICLE: Michigan Criminal Procedure, 2010
- Presentation: **What the Heck is an SAD?**, Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo, April 2019
- Presentation: **Parliamentary Procedures at its Worst**, Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo, April 2019
- Presentation: **Regulating Liquor Licensing in your Community**, Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo, April 2018
- Presentation: **It Shouldn't Be This Hard to Clean Up That Property**, Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo, April 2017
- Presentation: **Liquor Control Updates**, Macomb Michigan Townships Association Chapter, February 2015
- Presentation: **Municipal Civil Infractions and Liquor License Updates**, Macomb Michigan Townships Association Chapter, November 2015

Community Service

- Children's Hospital of Michigan (1999-2014)
- Judge for the Michigan Center for Civic Education High School Mock Trial Tournaments (2007 and 2011)
- Coach for Youth in Government Team at Stoney Creek High School (2009)

Stephanie Simon Morita

Stephanie Simon Morita concentrates her practice in municipal law, local taxation law, and property tax appeal defense. She has extensive trial experience representing municipalities in valuation disputes in the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and has also successfully litigated valuation and tax disputes in Circuit, Probate and Bankruptcy courts. Her representation of clients in property tax and exemption matters has also extended to appearances before the State Tax Commission, Federal District Courts, and Appellate Courts in the State of Michigan.

Stephanie's work has encompassed plat vacation, construction and real property title disputes, litigation of real property sale—specific performance and trespass nuisance claims, Open Meetings Act, Freedom of Information Act, zoning, construction contract drafting and administration of the construction of public works, ordinance review and drafting, mutual aid agreements, local government contracts, and arbitration.



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Practice Areas

- General Municipal Law
- Taxes and Assessing
- Appellate Advocacy
- Real Estate and Construction

Education

- Wayne State University Law School, J.D., 1995
- University of Michigan, A.B. with Honors, 1992

Professional Activities/Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan
Member, 1995-present
Member, Council for the Appellate Practice Section, 2008-present
Secretary, Appellate Practice Section Council, 2011-2013
Treasurer, Appellate Practice Section Council, 2013-present
- Michigan Municipal League Finance Committee
2017-present

Representative Tax Cases

- *Menard, Inc. v City of Escanaba*, 315 Mich App 512 (2016) – Big Box (Appellate Amicus briefing)
- *Detroit Lions, Inc. v City of Dearborn*, 302 Mich App 676 (2013) – Special Purpose Property
- *Leahy v Orion Twp.*, 269 Mich App 527 (2006) – Jurisdiction Issue

- *Walnut Creek Country Club v Lyon Township*, MOAHR 17-002531 (2019) – Country Club
- *Beshears v City of Novi*, Docket no. 415404 (2013) – Lakefront Home
- *Lynch v Novi*, Docket no. 371093 (2012) – Residential Property
- *Eight-Haggerty Properties v Novi*, Docket nos. 371620 and 371622 (2012) – Vacant Land
- *Eight Mile & Haggerty Land Co. v Novi*, Docket no. 363342 (2012) – Big Boy Restaurant
- *Comau, Inc. v City of Novi*, Docket no. 351412 (2011) – Industrial
- *Miss Dig System, Inc. v City of Auburn Hills*, Docket no. 350051 (2011) – Charitable Exemption
- *Sears, Roebuck & Co. v City of Novi*, Docket no. 337849 (2009) – Mall Anchor Department Store
- *Detroit Medical Center v City of Novi*, Docket no. 327024 (2009) – Medical Office Building

Publications/Presentations

- Presenter, Oakland County Association of Township Supervisors, "Dark Store/Big Box/Property Tax," May 2018
- Author, "Escanaba Winds 'Dark Store' Taxation Appeal", March/April 2018 edition of The Review, published by Michigan Municipal League
- Presenter, Great Lakes Chapter of the Appraisal Institute, "Appraising for the Tax Tribunal," February 2018
- Presenter, City of Rochester Hills "Women in Government," February 2018
- Presenter, Rochester Area American Association of University Women, "What it Takes to Lead," October 2015
- Presenter, Oakland County Bar Association Municipal Law Committee, "Hot Topics in Property Tax Law," September 2015
- Co-Author, "What Judges Say About How to Brief That Arcane Appeal (and Practically Everything Else)," Michigan Bar Journal, February 2013
- Presenter, Appellate Practice Section, Seminar on the "Economics of Appellate Practice," May, 2011
- Author, "Free Beer – A Truly Intriguing Tale of Property Taxation and Foreclosure," Laches, published by the Oakland County Bar Association, July 2008
- Presenter, National Business Institute's Seminar on Property Tax Law in Michigan, 2003
- Presenter, Institute for Professionals in Taxation Michigan One-Day Tax Update Seminar, 2003
- Presenter, National Business Institute's Seminar on Property Tax Law in Michigan, 2002
- Author, "Basement Flooding Claims Under Public Act 222 of 2001," Laches, published by the Oakland County Bar Association, November 2002
- Co-Author, "Vacation of Platted Land Dedicated for Public Use," Public Corporation Law Quarterly, December 1999, reprinted with permission in the Michigan Real Property Review, Spring 2000

Community Activities/Involvement

- City of Rochester Hills Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, 2007-2015 and 2019-present
- City of Rochester Hills City Council, 2013-present
- Avondale Youth Assistance Board of Directors, 2013-present
- Paint Creek Trailway Commission Member, 2013-2015
- City of Rochester Hills City Council Vice President, 2015-2019
- City of Rochester Hills Planning Commission, 2015-2019
- Older Person's Commission Board of Directors, 2015-2019
- City of Rochester Hills Museum Foundation Board 2015-present