

## Christopher J. Johnson

Christopher J. Johnson is a Shareholder in the firm. Since 1981, Mr. Johnson has been active in the defense of municipalities in civil litigation throughout the state of Michigan. He maintains specialties in the fields of municipal law, school law, legislation, liability and insurance defense. He is admitted to all state and federal courts in the State of Michigan as well as the United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court. He is a member of the Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police. He has served as a member of the State of Michigan's Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Commission from 2001-2007.



### Contact Information:

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### Practice Areas

- Municipal Law
- Constitutional Law/Civil Rights
- Insurance Defense

### Education

- Michigan State University, College of Law (formerly Detroit College of Law), JD 1981
- University of Michigan, BGS 1978

### Professional Activities/Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan
- Public Corporation Section of the State Bar of Michigan
- Michigan Council of School Attorneys
- Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police
- Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Law Enforcement Committee
- Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's Corrections Commission
- State of Michigan Local Lock-Up Advisory (Ex-officio Member)
- Defense Research Institute
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Municipal League Legislation and Urban Affairs Committee
- Michigan Municipal League Legislative Governance Committee
- Board of Directors – Northville Education Foundation

### Community Activities / Involvement

- Mayor, City of Northville 1987-2015
- Northville Downtown Development Authority 1987-2015
- Chairperson Northville Historic District Commission 1987-1997, 2004-2015
- Conference of Western Wayne (Director and Past Chairperson)
- South Oakland County Mayor's Association

- Northville Board of Education 1976-1987; served in every office, including President

### **Awards**

- 2015 – Named Citizen of the Year by the Northville Chamber of Commerce
- 2010 – Named Top Lawyer by *Hour Magazine* and *DBusiness*, Southeast Michigan's Journal for Business

### **Publications/Presentations**

- October 19, 2015 – Presented to the Michigan Sheriff's Association on Legal Updates in Traverse City, Michigan
- October 12, 2015 – Presented to the 9-1-1 Directors Association on FOIA in Bay City, Michigan.
- September 2015 - Co-author of "The Open Meetings Act: The Delicate Balance Between Transparency and a Public Body's Ability to Operate", Michigan Bar Journal
- June 26, 2015 – Presented to the Metro Detroit Police Departments on FOIA in Novi, Michigan.
- June 4, 2015 – Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Marquette, Michigan
- May 29, 2015 – Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Livonia, Michigan
- May 27, 2015 - Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Manistee, Michigan
- May 21, 2015 - Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- May 18, 2015 - Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Bay City, Michigan
- May 13, 2015 – Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Livonia, Michigan
- May 6, 2015 – Presented to the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority Members on FOIA in Livonia, Michigan
- May 5, 2015 – Presented to Lenox Township on FOIA in Lenox Township, Michigan
- April 29, 2015 – Presented to the City of Wayne on FOAI in Wayne, Michigan
- April 23, 2015 – Presented to Iosco County Area Governments on FOIA in Tawas City, Michigan
- March 29, 2015 – Presented to Michigan Public Interest Risk Management Association on FOIA in Lansing, Michigan
- March 11, 2015 – Presented to Metro Detroit Police Departments on FOIA in Novi, Michigan
- March 3, 2015 – Presented to the Saginaw County Area Clerks Association on FOIA in Tittabawassee, Michigan
- July 24, 2014 – Presented to the Michigan Local Government Management Association on Council/Manager Relationship in Bay City, Michigan
- June 26, 2014 – Presented to the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks on FOIA in Grand Rapids, Michigan
- April 30, 2014 – Presented to the Monroe County Sheriff's Office on FOIA in Monroe, Michigan
- April 29, 2014 – Presented to the West Michigan Criminal Justice Training Consortium on FOIA (or COLES Certified) in Lowell, Michigan
- November 21, 2013 – Presented to Livingston County Clerk's Association on FOIA in Marion Township, Michigan.
- October 14, 2013 – Presented on the topic of Personnel Files and Inmate Files to the Michigan Sheriffs' Association in Lansing.
- June 27, 2013 – Presented to Lansing Police Department on FOIA in Lansing, Michigan.

- March 25, 2013 – Presented to Michigan Register of Deeds Association on FOIA in Clare, Michigan.
- February 8, 2013 – Presented to Michigan Corporation Section of the State Bar on Update on FOIA Cases and Legislation in Novi, Michigan.
- November 8, 2012 - Presented to Michigan Public Risk Managers Association on FOIA in Plymouth, Michigan.
- Presented to the Michigan Judicial Institute on the topic of lawsuits against Michigan Judges on April 25, 2012 in Detroit, April 26, 2012 in Lansing and May 10, 2012 in Gaylord.
- Presenter at the March 1, 2012 MMRMA Winter Workshop on the subject of the Freedom of Information Act.
- Presented a Freedom of Information Act seminar to upper peninsula members of the MMRMA on October 12, 2011 in Escanaba.
- Presenter to the Michigan Sheriff's Association on October 11, 2011 in Lansing on recent case law developments.
- Authored an article for The Risk Journal, published by the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority in the February 2011 issue titled, "Metadata and the Freedom of Information Act."
- Editor of the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority's new "FOIA Coordinator Handbook", and presenter at FOIA seminar on March 25, 2009, May 6, 2009 and June 23, 2009.
- Panel member at the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys Advanced Institute in Lansing in March 2009.
- Instructor at the Michigan Sheriffs' Association's 2009 New Undersheriffs' School on February 13, 2009.
- Instructor at the Michigan Sheriffs' Association's New Sheriffs' School in East Lansing on December 17, 2008.
- Presented "Anatomy of a Lawsuit" in Sault Ste. Marie in May 2006.
- Presented a Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act seminar to Bay County officials in May 2006.