

Steven P. Joppich

Steven P. Joppich is a Shareholder of the Firm and has devoted his legal career to representing the interests of governmental entities. Since 1994, Mr. Joppich has assisted numerous municipalities with a wide variety of legal issues both in and out of the courtroom. As a result, he has gained substantial expertise in a diverse and broad cross section of municipal law, with the following being a sampling of his areas of experience: zoning and land use regulation, redevelopment issues, wetland and natural resource preservation techniques, real estate transactions, contracts, ordinance drafting, Freedom of Information Act, Open Meetings Act, special assessment districts, tax abatements, tax increment financing and other economic development strategies and tools, historic districts, parks and recreation, lake boards, election law, regulation of adult businesses, medical marijuana issues, and code enforcement. He has also been involved in a multitude of complex land transactions and the creation of development agreements between municipalities and private land owners/developers.



In addition to advising municipalities in his capacity as general counsel, Mr. Joppich has successfully represented both public and private clients in an array of civil court cases. His courtroom work has required him to defend his clients in a myriad of cases. He has experience litigating disputes involving subjects such as: land use and zoning law, takings, wetland and environmental issues, alleged constitutional violations, Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act matters, contracts, gas pipelines, historic districts, blighted properties and dangerous buildings, condemnation/ eminent domain, riparian rights, and oil and gas wells.

Mr. Joppich currently serves as City Attorney for the City of Farmington Hills and the Township Attorney for Independence Township and Lenox Township. He also serves as general counsel to the Oakland Township Parks and Recreation Commission, assists in providing general counsel representation to the cities of Novi and Farmington, and has served as special counsel to numerous other communities.

Contact Information:

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Education

- BA - University of Michigan
- JD - Detroit College of Law

Professional Activities/Memberships

- State Bar of Michigan, Public Corporations Section, Board of Directors
- State Bar of Michigan, Real Estate Law Section, Member
- Oakland County Bar Association, Member and Past-Chairperson of the Municipal Law Committee

- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Professionalism and Education Committee
- Fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation
- Fellow of the Oakland County Bar Foundation
- Michigan Municipal League
- Michigan Townships Association
- National League of Cities

Awards

- Awarded the 2014-15 Detroit Municipal Law "Lawyer of the Year" by *Best Lawyers in America*
- Earned the prestigious Martindale-Hubbell "AV Preeminent" Rating, which is the highest possible, and most recognized, peer review rating for attorneys.
- Member of the inaugural class of inductees into the *Academy of Michigan Municipal Attorneys* through the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys under the Michigan Municipal League (September 2012-present)
- Listed in *Best Lawyers in America* in the areas of Litigation Real Estate and Municipal Law (2012-2015)
- Selected as a *Michigan Super Lawyer* by Thomson Reuters (2007-2017)
- Named a *Top Lawyer* by dBusiness and Hour Magazine in the field of Municipal Law (2011-2017)

Publications/Presentations

- Co-Author of the *Michigan Municipal Law* book published by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education (2012, updated 2013)
- Regular contributing author of reports regarding recent cases in *The Michigan Planning & Zoning News* (2007-2015)
- Author of published articles for *Public Corporation Law Quarterly* (2009-2011)
- Speaker at multiple seminars of the following organizations (2002-2015):
 - Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA)
 - Michigan Townships Association (MTA)
 - Public Corporation Law Section (PCLS) of the State Bar of Michigan
 - Michigan Association of Code Enforcement Officials (MACEO)
 - Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA)
 - Oakland County Bar Association
- Co-Editor of the *Public Corporation Law Quarterly*, a publication of the Michigan Bar Association (2007-2015)
- 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 published article for *The Michigan Planning & Zoning News* (2011)
- Regularly provides training seminars for individual planning commissions, zoning boards of appeals, and other municipal boards, commissions and councils.

Community Involvement

- Xemplar Club, Member and Past President
- Board of Directors for two nonprofit, charitable organizations
- Coach, Manager and volunteer in youth sporting programs