

Don M. Schmidt

SERVICE AREAS

Governments + Nonprofits

- Construction Contracts + Bidding
- Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreements
- Public Law - Powers, Open Meetings + FOIA
- Zoning + Planning

EDUCATION

- Wayne State University Law School, J.D.
- Kalamazoo College, B.A.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Michigan



Of Counsel

Kalamazoo

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Don M. Schmidt assists all types of public entities -- cities, villages, school districts, libraries, educational institutions, special authorities, and so forth -- in meeting the ever-increasing requirements of public agency law. His specialty areas include intergovernmental agreements, economic development projects, PA 425 conditional land transfers, municipal utility matters, annexation, Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act issues, elections, construction contracts, and bidding and contracting matters.

"I provide my clients with simple, understandable and practical solutions to complex public legal problems."

Don M. Schmidt

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- American Bar Association, Local Government Law Section
- State Bar of Michigan, Public Corporation Law Section, Member, Section Council; Chair, 1996-1997; Vice Chair, 1995-1996; Secretary-Treasurer, 1994-1995; Aviation Law Section
- Kalamazoo County Bar Association, Board of Directors, 1983-1987; President, 1986-1987; President-elect, 1985-1986; First Vice-president, 1984-1985
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Board of Directors, 1983-1987; President, 1986-1987
- Michigan Municipal League, Legal Defense Fund Board of Director, 1983-1987; Chairman, Board of Directors, 1986-1987

HONORS + AWARDS

- Best Lawyers in America, Municipal Law and Public Finance Law 2007-present

Don M. Schmidt

- Michigan Super Lawyers, Government/Cities/Municipalities 2008-present
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, 2011 William L. Steude Ethics and Civility in Local Government Award, 2009 Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award

CIVIC, CULTURAL + SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

- Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Big Brother, 1975-1980
- Rotary Club of Kalamazoo
- Friendship Village, Board of Directors, 2001-2009

PUBLICATIONS

"Michigan Supreme Court Upholds FOIA 'Frank Communications' Exemption," Municipal Legal Briefs, August 2006

"When is a Meeting a 'Meeting' under Michigan's Open Meetings Act?" Michigan Municipal Review, May/June 2004

"The Freedom of Information Act," Local Government Law and Practice in Michigan, Michigan Municipal League and MAMA, 1999

"Putting it in Focus: An Update on the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Acts," Michigan Township News, April 1999

"An Update on Recent Cases Involving the Open Meetings Act: AKA--Whither the Committee," Michigan Council of School Attorneys' Newsletter, October 1998

"A City Commission and a City Manager--a New Public Body?" Michigan Municipal Review, June 1998

"Local Government Bidding and Contracting Procedures," Michigan Bar Journal, February 1984

SPEECHES

Presenter, "The New Contract Zoning Legislation in Michigan: Is Your Community Ready?" Seminar sponsored by McKenna Associates and Miller Canfield, Grand Valley State University, L.V. Eberhard Center, Grand Rapids, Michigan, August 18, 2005

Presenter, "The Sunshine Acts in the Age of the Internet: I'll Bet Bill Gates Never Thought of This," 7th Annual Summer Education Conference of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and

Don M. Schmidt

Public Corporation Law Section, Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island,
June 25, 2005

Presenter, "Construction Seminar," Genesee County Division of
Water and Waste Services, Flint, Michigan, 2005

Presenter, "Basics of OMA and FOIA," Michigan Municipal League,
106th Annual Convention, Mackinac Island, Michigan, 10/1/04

Presenter, "Conflict of Interest--What Is and What Isn't? Recent
Developments in Conflicts of Interest for School Officials." Annual
Meeting of Michigan Association of School Administrators, Traverse
City, Michigan, 9/23/04

Presenter, "Open Meetings Act Update," Michigan Association of
Municipal Attorneys, Local Governmental Law and Practice in
Michigan Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan, 11/6/03

Presenter, "Open Meetings Act Update," Public Corporation Law
Section 2003 Winter Seminar, Dearborn, Michigan, 2/7/03

Presenter, "Update on the Open Meetings and Freedom of
Information Acts," 2003 Legal Institute for Township Attorneys held
in conjunction with the Michigan Township Association's 50th Annual
Educational Conference, Detroit, Michigan, 1/28/03

Guest panelist, "First Amendment Forum," at the W. K. Kellogg
Foundation Auditorium in Battle Creek, Michigan, sponsored by the
Battle Creek Enquirer, 1/9/02

Presenter, "The Supreme Court Speaks on the Application of the
Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act to Public
Sector Employers," International Personnel Management Association
and the Michigan Public Employer Labor Relations Association, East
Lansing, Michigan, 12/07/01

Presenter, "Update on Regional Affiliation Structures and Governance
Options (Round 3)," Michigan Association of Community Mental
Health Boards, Battle Creek, Michigan, 5/23/01

Presenter, "Open Meetings Act/FOIA/Robert's Rules of Order, Conflict
of Interest/Ethical Considerations for Public Officials," Kalamazoo
County Chamber of Commerce Public Service Candidate School,
Kalamazoo, Michigan, 3/21/01

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Presenter, "Regional Affiliation Structures and Governance Options (Round 2)," Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards, Lansing, Michigan, 2/27/01

Presenter, "Regional Affiliation Structures and Governance Options," Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards, Traverse City, Michigan, 10/17/00

Presenter, "FOIA and Electronic Data," Public Corporation Law Section Winter Seminar, Battle Creek, Michigan, 2/4/00

Presenter, "Public Bidding Requirements," Lorman Educational Services Seminar on Construction Contracting for Public Entities in Michigan, Kalamazoo, Michigan, 12/3/99

Presenter, "What Every Public Official Should Know about the Open Meetings Act," Michigan Municipal Finance Officers' Association, Bellaire, Michigan, 9/20/99

Presenter, "Update on the Freedom of Information Act and the Open Meetings Act," State Bar of Michigan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 9/15/99

Presenter, "An Update on the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act," Michigan Townships Association's Legal Institute for Township Attorneys, Detroit, Michigan, 1/19/99

Presenter, "Recent Amendments to the Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act and Case Law Update," Seventh Annual Municipal Attorney Institute of Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Frankenmuth, Michigan, 10/8/97

Presenter, "Regional Telecommunications Policy Planning," GrandNet, Grand Community Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 10/15/96

"Newly Elected Village Officials: Getting Off to the Right Start," Michigan Municipal League, Battle Creek, Michigan, May 11, 1996

Presenter, "The Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act," Sixth Annual Municipal Attorney Institute, Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Frankenmuth, Michigan, May 2, 1996

"Selecting Professional Services," Michigan Library Association, Howell, Michigan, April 25, 1996

Don M. Schmidt

Presenter, "The Open Meetings Act--Its Requirements and some Practical Approaches," Public Corporation Law Section Seminar, State Bar of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, February 24, 1995

Presenter, "Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act," 5th Annual Municipal Attorney Institute, Albion College, November 3, 1994

Presenter, "Newly Elected Village Officials: Getting Off to the Right Start." The Michigan Municipal League, April 23, 1994

Presenter, "Is There Life after Booth? The Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act after Booth Newspapers, Inc. v University of Michigan," Township Attorney Institute, Detroit, Michigan, January 18, 1994

Presenter, "Newly Elected Officials: Getting Off to the Right Start," The Michigan Municipal League, January 8, 1994

Presenter, "Is There Anyplace Where the Sun Doesn't Shine So to Speak? The Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act," Municipal Attorney Institute of Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, October 27, 1993

Presenter, "The Sunshine Laws, The Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act or Is There Any Place Where the Sun Doesn't Shine, So to Speak?" 1992 Municipal Attorney Institute of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, June 25, 1992

Presenter, "Employment Contract for City Managers and City Attorneys Still Alive after City of Hazel Park v Potter"? Annual Mid-winter Advanced Institute of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, February 18, 1992

Presenter, "Freedom of Information Act/Open Meetings Act, Recent Developments." Michigan Townships Association Legal Institute, January 21, 1992

Presenter, "Freedom of Information Act/Open Meetings Act Update, Recent Developments Since June 1990." 1991 Spring Seminar of the Public Corporation Section of the State Bar of Michigan, June 6, 1991

Presenter, "An Update on the Open Meetings Act," Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, February 26, 1991

Don M. Schmidt

Presenter, "Freedom of Information/Open Meetings Act Update,"
1990 Spring Seminar of the Public Corporation Section, State Bar of
Michigan, June 9, 1990

NEWS

- Miller Canfield's Don Schmidt Receives William L. Steude Award
- Miller Canfield's Don Schmidt Receives Distinguished Municipal Attorney Award