

Thursday

October 19

9:00—10:15 a.m.

# Working with Railroads

Municipalities rarely have to interact with the railroad running through their community. The state's regulatory agency, the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR), is unfamiliar to most of us. This presentation explores the OCR's regulatory process and its legal authority and dealing with railroads in general (quiet zones, drainage, abandoned sidings, and easements). What you do when your road project crosses the railroad, or you get complaints about rough railroad crossings, or the railroad wants to close one of your crossings? Are all railroads the same to deal with? What are the best strategies to level the playing field with the railroad?



## Douglas Wood

Owner

*Wisconsin Railroad  
Consulting & Mediation, LLC*

Doug Wood is a 1982 graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School (cum laude). He worked at the Office of the Commissioner of Railroads (OCR) from 1986 to February 2016. He served as the OCR's Legal Counsel and Administrative Law Judge from the agency's inception in 1994. During that time, he created many of the OCR's procedural and substantive policies.

Doug has developed close relationships with key railroad staff operating in Wisconsin, as well as DOT and Federal Railroad Administration personnel. In addition, Doug currently sits on the City of Monona Common Council, a role he has filled for 18 years.

This experience, combined with the work he has done with the state's railroads and WISDOT, give him a unique perspective on railroad/municipal interaction.



## Stanley Riffle

Attorney

*Arenz, Molter, Macy, Riffle & Larson, SC*

Attorney Riffle has concentrated in the representation of municipalities since 1984, when his law firm, Arenz, Molter, Macy & Riffle, S.C., was formed. Currently, the firm is the municipal attorney for over 50 municipal clients, in addition to serving as special counsel for dozens of municipalities on a one-time or a special matter basis. Attorney Riffle coordinates all municipal litigation for all firm clients. Over the years, Attorney Riffle has been involved in hundreds of proceedings and has appeared before numerous commissions, circuit and appellate courts throughout Wisconsin. He also serves as the Waukesha County Condemnation Commissioner, and is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin Standing Committee on Ethics.

## Tips, Trends & Tactics

**The 119th League Annual Conference  
October 18-20, 2017  
Radisson Paper Valley  
Appleton**

