

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

Remzy D. Bitar is a partner with Municipal Law & Litigation Group, S.C., a firm whose 35-year history focuses on protecting and serving over 50 local government entities of all types and sizes, their officials and employees and their insurers. The firm enjoys a strong presence in all areas of municipal law, municipal defense litigation and appellate practice.

Remzy handles litigation in both state and federal court including trial and appeals, with two cases involving constitutional rights making their way to the United States Supreme Court. His experience ranges from defending lawsuits against law enforcement for excessive force, false arrest and search and seizure; to defending wrongful death claims brought against police and jails; to handling condemnation, zoning and other land use matters in litigation; to public records and open meetings law litigation; to Police and Fire Commission hearings; and to the defense of municipalities and their officials and employees in complex litigation involving conspiracies and civil rights claims.

Remzy began his practice after completing a judicial clerkship with the Supreme Court of Missouri for the Honorable Laura Denvir Stith. He is a member of the American Bar Association, the Milwaukee Bar Association, the Wisconsin Defense Counsel, and the Defense Research Institute. He is a graduate of Lawrence University in Appleton and Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. In addition to his legal work, Remzy has co-chaired the Milwaukee Bar Association's Civil Litigation Section and served as President of the Milwaukee Insurance Adjuster's Association. Remzy also completed membership in the American Inns of Court, an organization of trial lawyers devoted to improving the skills, professionalism, civility and ethics of the bench and bar in our community.

A frequent lecturer on topics including municipal, civil rights and constitutional law along with litigation related matters, Remzy has been honored on several occasions through the Wisconsin Super Lawyers as a "Rising Star," the Milwaukee Magazine as a "Best Lawyer" and the Wisconsin Law Journal as a "Leader in the Law."

Eileen Brownlee is an attorney with Boardman & Clark with over 30 years of experience in the areas of municipal law, public sector employment law and school law and maintains her office in Fennimore, Wisconsin. Eileen works with cities, villages, towns and special purpose districts throughout the State of Wisconsin. Eileen's practice encompasses all facets of general municipal law and public sector employment law including policy and ordinance drafting and implementation, ordinance violation prosecution, open records and open meetings advice, municipal real estate acquisition, labor negotiations, grievance arbitration, employee misconduct investigations, advice on employee improvement plans and performance evaluations, and analysis of and application of all major federal and state labor and employment statutes, including FMLA, ADA, ADEA and other discrimination laws. Eileen is a graduate of the Marquette University Law School.

Jennifer Campbell is a Senior Staff Counsel with WEDC overseeing a staff of three and the legal and contracting aspects of WEDC's financial and technical assistance programs. Prior to this position, she served in various legal, compliance, and policy roles for WEDC and the Wisconsin Housing and Economic Development Authority. She received her law degree from the University

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

of Wisconsin-Madison Law School and her B.S. in Social Work from Saint Louis University. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Kail J. Decker is an Assistant City Attorney with the City of Milwaukee. His duties include litigation and the prosecution of building codes and public nuisances. He is the last stop for the most difficult property-related problems facing Milwaukee. Through unique legal strategies, Kail focuses on removing or rehabilitating dilapidated and environmentally contaminated buildings, shutting down bad landlords, collecting debt, and economic development of blighted properties. He is an award-winning author and regularly presents on the topic of abating public nuisances.

Nicholas P. DeSiato is an assistant city attorney with the City of Milwaukee. He is the supervising attorney for the city's municipal prosecution office and represents the city in nuisance matters, including actions involving drug houses, gang activity and licensed premises. He also manages various citywide initiatives and programs as alternatives to prosecution, including programs related to the sale of tobacco and alcohol to minors, underage alcohol use, controlled substance use, animal abuse and traffic violations. Prior to joining the Milwaukee City Attorney's Office, Nick was a consultant for a financial institution and a staff attorney with the Wisconsin courts. He is still shamelessly gloating over the Eagles' Super Bowl victory.

Dean R. Dietrich is Chair of the Employment/Benefits and Labor Relations Practice Group of the Wausau Law Firm of Ruder Ware, L.L.S.C. For the past 40 years, Dean has focused his practice on representing private and public sector clients in all aspects of municipal and employment law, including labor relations. He is a graduate of Marquette University and Marquette University Law School. He is a member of the American, Wisconsin, and Marathon County Bar Associations. He is also a member of the Labor and Employment Law and Local Government Law Sections of the American and Wisconsin Bar Associations.

Richard W. Donner is a shareholder in the Real Estate Practice at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c. He received his undergraduate degree, with distinction, from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. He is the co-author of *Condemnation Law and Practice in Wisconsin*, published by the State Bar of Wisconsin and has written and spoken extensively on real estate issues. He is a member of the State Bars of New York and Wisconsin.

Michelle M. Drea is an attorney serving as the Interim City Assessor for the city of Madison, Wisconsin. She recently served as the Wisconsin Property Assessment Manual and Guides Editor for the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR). Prior to her time at DOR, Michelle held a supervisory position with the City of Denver – Prosecution Unit. She transitioned to the private arena with Thomson Reuters as an author of legal textbooks and Bar Review instructor, and as a corporate attorney for a mid-sized company based in Wisconsin.

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

Philip J. Freeburg is a Senior Lecturer at the Local Government Center of the University of Wisconsin Extension in Madison. Philip teaches and writes on local government law, including ethics, Open Meeting Law, Public Records Law, roles and responsibilities and land use.

Before coming to the Local Government Center in 2008 Philip served for 9 years as Wausau Municipal Judge until December 2008. He was an attorney for 20 years with the Schofield, Wisconsin firm of Tlusty, Hittner Kennedy & Freeburg, SC, and was the Langlade County District Attorney and Corporation Counsel from 1984 to 1988, and in private practice before that.

He received his Juris Doctorate in 1981 from the University of Wisconsin, and a BA in History from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1978. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the State Bar of Georgia.

Mary Gage is a Senior Economic Development Director with WEDC overseeing a staff of seven covering 50 counties. Prior to this position, she was the Regional Account Manager for six of the counties (Columbia, Sauk, Dane, Dodge, Jefferson, and Rock). She assumed this role in the fall of 2011 after serving 15 years at the Department of Commerce, most recently as Director of Business Finance in charge of underwriting for most business-to-business programs. Prior experience includes Credit Manager at Sallie Mae in Washington D.C, as well as credit analyst positions at consumer and commercial banks. She is certified by the National Development Council as an Economic Development Finance Professional and has the Certified Economic Development designation from the International Economic Development Council.

Jill Pedigo Hall practices with von Briesen & Roper, s.c. in Madison, Wisconsin. She uses her twenty years of employment law experience to advise public and private organizations and businesses of all sizes, assisting in strengthening workplace structures and compliance strategies. Widely regarded for building collaboration, she is also a resourceful litigator. Jill leverages her personal business experience to solve employment law and people management issues in a full range of employment law issues, and reduce risks through efficient, practical solutions. Discrimination and harassment prevention, medical leave and workplace disability accommodation, and wage and hour are focal areas of Jill's practice and she has litigated, written, and trained in those areas. She is rated AV Preeminent® by Martindale-Hubbell, the highest peer rating that can be awarded.

Jill is admitted to practice in Wisconsin, Minnesota, the Eastern and Western U.S. Districts of Wisconsin, the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit. In addition to these courts, she has practiced before numerous federal and state employment enforcement agencies. Her professional memberships include the State Bars of Wisconsin and Minnesota, the Defense Research Institute (DRI), the Labor and Employment Division of the American Bar Association, the Industry Liaison Group (ILG), and the Society of Human Resources Management.

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

Adam F. Jardine is an attorney in Reinhart's Real Estate Practice. Adam advises clients on acquisitions and dispositions of real estate and leasing matters throughout the country, and land use, zoning and development matters for clients throughout Wisconsin. Adam is a cum laude graduate of the University of Michigan Law School and has his undergraduate degree from UW-Green Bay.

Douglas J. Hoffer is Deputy City Attorney for the City of Eau Claire. He previously served as the Assistant Municipal Attorney for the Village of Elm Grove, Village of Hartland, Village of Lannon and Town of Waukesha. He has successfully represented municipalities in circuit courts, the Wisconsin Court of Appeals, and the Wisconsin Supreme Court.

Doug is a frequent writer on legal topics, and has written articles published in national law journals and in Wisconsin Lawyer magazine. In law school Doug finished in 3rd Place in a national law student writing competition, and the State Bar of Wisconsin awarded him a certificate of commendation for one of his articles in 2015. Doug was named "Rookie of the Year" in 2012 by the Waukesha County Bar Association, a 2015 "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the Wisconsin Law Journal, and the 2017 Brad Bailey Assistant City/County Attorney of the year by the International Municipal Lawyers Association. In 2017, he earned the designation of IMLA Local Government Fellow. Doug is a 2010 graduate of Marquette University Law School.

Eric Larson is a partner with Municipal Law & Litigation Group, S.C. Eric is the Village Attorney for the Villages of Fox Point, Slinger and Dousman, the Town Attorney for the Towns of Delafield, Lowell, and Troy, counsel to the Dane County Town's Association, and assists heavily in the firm's representation of more than 50 municipal entities and dozens of special counsel appointments throughout the State. He is a regular speaker at the annual meetings of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Municipal Attorneys Institute and the Wisconsin Towns Association Town Attorneys Institute and has chaired the Waukesha County Bar Association municipal section for more than a decade.

In recent years Eric has taught on a broad range of municipal law topics including: Liquor Licensing; Conditional Use Authority; Municipal Regulation of Telecommunications; Shared Municipal Services; Terminating Intermunicipal Agreements; Urban Agriculture Legal Issues; Officers and Employees; Ethics; Trees, Weeds and Stormwater Regulation; Solutions to Stalled Development; Public/Private Partnerships; Single-Family Residential Zoning Issues; Public Records Laws; Open Meetings Laws; Municipal Best Practices; Financial Guarantees; Regulation of Signs; and Contract Indemnification; among others. Eric's career goal of helping local government thrive began in-house in County government and has continued in private practice for 25 years.

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

James Macy is a shareholder with von Briesen & Roper, S.C. Jim represents employers in all aspects of labor and employment including such matters as collective bargaining negotiations, grievance matters, unfair labor practices, discrimination defense, disability and ADA issues, wrongful discharge or employment contract disputes, non-competition issues and other difficult personnel transactions. He drafts employment agreements and negotiates employment severances. He represents private and public sector employers of all sizes, including those with union and non-union workforces.

Jim has been recognized in Best Lawyers in America® continuously since 2005 through 2018 and has been selected as their “Lawyer of the Year” for Employment Law - Management in 2013 and 2015 and “Lawyer of the Year” for Labor Law - Management in 2013.

He serves as the Chair of the Oshkosh Leadership Steering Committee and the Town of Black Wolf Board of Zoning Appeals. Jim also served as a Director on numerous civic Boards including Oshkosh Chamber of Commerce, Grand Opera House, the Oshkosh Area Humane Society and Unified Catholic Schools Foundation. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, the Florida State Bar and the American Bar Association

Alexandria J. Neal is an associate in Reinhart's Real Estate Law Practice. During law school, Alex was a legal intern at the U.S. District Court for the District of Connecticut for the Hon. Vanessa L. Bryant, where she researched and analyzed case and statutory law on various issues, drafted preliminary court opinions, and drafted bench memoranda on various issues. Alexandria has a J.D., cum laude, from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law (Associate Editor, Northwestern University Law Review) and a B.B.A., cum laude, from The George Washington University.

Stephen C. Nick is the City Attorney for the City of Eau Claire and has served the City since 2000 and in that capacity since 2001. Before that, he was in private practice specializing in municipal law and litigation. He is a proud Badger and Phoenix graduating from University of Wisconsin Law School and UW-Green Bay. He has been designated a Local Government Fellow by the International Municipal Lawyers Association since 2006, was awarded the national Daniel J. Curtin Young Public Lawyer Award, and currently serves IMLA and his fellow government lawyers as state chair. In 2015, he was a recipient of the Leaders in the Law recognition by the Wisconsin Law Journal. He is a guest faculty member at UW Law School teaching the government and administrative proceedings portion of the Lawyering Skills Course in 2014 and 2018, a guest lecturer at UW-Eau Claire, and a speaker at State Bar of Wisconsin, League of Wisconsin Municipalities, among other professional speaking engagements.

Steve currently is the Eau Claire Rotary President-Elect, Chippewa Valley Boy Scouts of America board member, and Chamber of Commerce Leadership Eau Claire Government and Law Day co-chair. Among other leadership roles, he has served as board president of the Eau Claire County Bar Association and the League of Wisconsin Municipalities - Lawyer's Division and is a past State Bar Mock Trial judge, regional coordinator, and coach of the Memorial High School Mock Trial team. He and his family enjoy downhill skiing, travel, Municipal Attorneys Institute Wednesday cook-outs, and a variety of sports and pursuits that have in common time outdoors.

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

Daniel M. Olson is the Assistant Legal Counsel for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Daniel provides legal assistance to municipal attorneys and officials through telephone inquiries, written opinions and briefs, workshop presentations and published articles. He also assists in writing League handbooks and planning the Municipal Attorney's Institute. Daniel joined the League staff in February 2001.

Timothy J. Pierce is Ethics Counsel for the State Bar of Wisconsin. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and his law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Mr. Pierce was previously a Deputy Director at the Office of Lawyer Regulation. He has also been employed as the Ethics Administrator for Milbank, Hadley, Tweed & McCloy, in New York, and as an Assistant State Public Defender in Racine. He is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin. He is a frequent speaker on matters of professional ethics.

Timothy J. Scott practices municipal law from his home office in Hammond, Wisconsin, representing villages and towns in St. Croix and Polk counties. He comes from a family of lawyers – his father, Raymond H. Scott (1921-2015) practiced law in Medford for 56 years and three of his siblings are lawyers. Tim received his B.A. degree in Humanities and German from St. John's University (MN) in 1980 and his J.D degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1988. He participated in the Young Lawyer's Program in Germany under a fellowship from the German Academic Exchange Service from 1988-1989. He received a second fellowship from that Service and earned his LL.M. degree summa cum laude in German and European Community Law from the Eberhard-Karls Universität in Tübingen, Germany in 1990. Tim served as law clerk to the Honorable Thomas S. Utschig, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Wisconsin (Eau Claire) from 1990-1994. He practiced municipal, bankruptcy, estate planning and real estate law with Bakke Norman Law offices from 1994-2008. Fascinated with the Holocaust history since childhood, Tim has delivered his message "The Holocaust – Its Relevance Today," approximately 1300 times over the past twenty-five years to thousands of college, high school and middle school students throughout Wisconsin and Minnesota, as well as to professional conventions, prison inmates, civic and church groups and educator conferences. He has visited numerous historic sites connected to the Holocaust throughout Europe over the past forty years and has met dozens of Holocaust survivors. He was named the Attorney of the Year for Law Related Education by the State Bar of Wisconsin in 1995.

Deborah C. Tomczyk is chair of Reinhart's Real Estate Practice, a shareholder in the firm's Corporate Law Practice, and chair of Reinhart's Entitlements Group. Debby assists clients in all aspects of real estate development, from structuring deals to obtaining financing and permits to ensuring that projects are successful. Debby's specialties include government relations, zoning, land use, eminent domain, licensing, tax increment financing and business improvement districts. Deborah is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Wisconsin Law School, Order of the Coif. Her BA was earned at Smith College where she was Phi Beta Kappa and graduated magna cum laude. Deborah regularly interfaces with local legislative bodies and state and federal

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

agencies including many municipal authorities, Wisconsin Department of Administration, Natural Resources, Transportation, Revenue and Professional Services, State Historical Society, Army Corps of Engineers and US Department of the Interior. Among her many honors, Deborah was named Best Lawyers' 2017 Milwaukee Land Use and Zoning Law "Lawyer of the Year."

Dennis Tweedale graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Madison with a Bachelor's degree in Risk Management and holds the designations of Associate in Risk Management (ARM) and Chartered Property and Casualty Underwriter (CPCU). Dennis's experience as a public risk manager, past president of PRIMA, and the founder of several successful risk financing programs for public entity groups has earned him a national reputation for analyzing these entities and suggesting various risk financing structures. Dennis is the current Chief Executive Officer for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Mutual Insurance. Dennis has over 30 years of experience with municipal insurance programs in Wisconsin. The League's insurance company is now in its thirteenth year of operation with over 395 cities, villages and special districts as insureds and \$25 million in premiums. He can be reached at dennis@lwmmi.org.

Ted Waskowski is a partner at Stafford Rosenbaum LLP. Almost all of his work is in litigation. Mr. Waskowski has represented dozens of Wisconsin municipalities in hundreds of litigated matters. He has defended municipalities against age discrimination, ADA, first amendment, FMLA, prisoners' rights and police brutality claims. He has also represented numerous municipalities in environmental matters, including those involving leaking municipal landfills, fuel storage facilities and contaminated wells. Construction disputes and coverage issues have always been a significant part of his practice.

Curt A. Witynski is the Deputy Director of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. His primary responsibility is to represent the interests of Wisconsin cities and villages in the state capitol. Before becoming Assistant Director, Curt served as the League's Legal Counsel for eight years. He received his undergraduate degree from Carthage College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He has a law degree from the University of Wisconsin Law School. Mr. Witynski writes the Legislative Bulletin and Capitol Buzz for local government officials when the legislature is in session. He has given presentations and written numerous articles on many aspects of municipal law. He is the co-author of several guidebooks for local officials published by the League. Mr. Witynski served on the Board of Directors of Creative Community Living Services, Inc. for six years and is a former member of the City of Madison Zoning Board of Appeals.

2018 Municipal Attorneys Institute Officers and League Staff

The 2018 program was planned by the officers for the Municipal Attorneys section and League staff.

Municipal Attorneys Section Officers

Matthew P. Dregne, President

Matthew Dregne is a partner with Stafford Rosenbaum LLP, and serves as the leader of the firm's Government Law Practice Group. Matt has practiced municipal law for 20 years. He serves as the City Attorney for the City of Stoughton, the Village Attorney for Oregon, Shorewood Hills, Belleville, and Barneveld, and the Town Attorney for the Town of Union in Rock County. Matt serves as secretary for the State Bar's Administrative and Local Government Law section and also serves on the Board of Trustees and as chair of the Governance Committee for Wingra School. In his spare time, Matt enjoys whitewater canoeing, is learning to sail, and enjoys spending time with his family and dogs, Reggie and Finn.

Frog Prell, President

Frog Prell is the City Attorney for the City of Superior and has served in that capacity since March of 2003. He grew up in rural Wyoming and earned a Bachelor's Degree at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Frog received his J.D. from Hamline University School of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota and is licensed to practice law in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Frog volunteers or has previously volunteered on a number of non-profit boards including the Superior/Douglas County YMCA and the Superior Scholarship Foundation. He enjoys spending time with his wife, son, daughter and Irish Setter.

League of Wisconsin Municipalities Staff

Claire Silverman, Legal Counsel, Daniel Olson, Assistant Legal Counsel

Claire Silverman is Legal Counsel for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities and has been with the League since 1992. Daniel Olson is the Assistant Legal Counsel for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. He joined the League staff in 2001. Claire and Daniel's responsibilities at the League include answering questions for employees and officials of member municipalities, writing League handbooks and legal articles for the League's magazine and writing amicus briefs in appellate cases involving issues of statewide concern to municipalities. Claire and Daniel also organize the program for the annual Municipal Attorneys Institute, and educate local officials on a variety of topics pertaining to their duties.