

2019 Municipal Attorneys Institute Speakers

(in alphabetical order by last name)

Andrew Baraniak has served as the local government records archivist for the Wisconsin Historical Society since 2015. His work with local governments includes identifying, transferring, and preserving records that have high historic and informational value, and providing assistance regarding retention periods and scheduling of public records. He has also served on the Operations and Training Advisory Committee of the Public Records Board for the past three years, and has served on several evaluation teams regarding the scheduling of local government records.

Peter J. Block is a Milwaukee assistant city attorney and a 2002 graduate of DePaul University College of Law. He advises and represents the City of Milwaukee and all its departments in all issues related to Wisconsin's public records law and open meetings law, and represents the city's Information Management Committee and the city's Ethics Board. He is the author of the fifth and sixth editions of the State Bar's *Public Records and Open Meetings Handbook*, has written articles on both public records and open meetings for *Wisconsin Lawyer* magazine and is a frequent speaker on both subjects. In his nine years with the City of Milwaukee, he has also served as a municipal prosecutor and assisted in general litigation and contracting. Before working for the city, Peter was a law clerk for the Milwaukee County Circuit Court.

Maria Davis is Assistant Legal Counsel at the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. Maria provides legal assistance to municipal attorneys and officials through telephone inquiries, written opinions and briefs, workshop presentations, and published articles. She also assists in writing League handbooks and planning an annual institute for municipal attorneys. Maria joined the League staff in 2018.

Steve Elmore is the Bureau of Drinking Water and Groundwater program director. He has a bachelor's degree in geological engineering from Purdue University. Steve started at the DNR in 2001 and has held positions in the public water supply and water use sections, including chief of the public water supply section. Prior to working for the department, Steve taught environmental education for the Peace Corps in Bulgaria.

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Kyle W. Engelke is a Senior Associate with the Madison law firm of Stafford Rosenbaum LLP. The majority of Kyle's work is litigating on behalf of municipalities. In state court, he frequently defends municipalities against claims ranging from negligence and violations of Wisconsin's Safe Place Law to nuisance and defamation. In federal court, he has appeared defending municipalities against civil rights claims alleging excessive force and fair housing violations, in addition to claims brought under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act for environmental cleanup costs. Kyle has handled numerous cases seeking emergency injunctions against municipalities in cases ranging from raze orders to dam removal to the continued operation of a non-metallic mine. His briefing experience includes successfully dismissing a mass tort claim for carbon monoxide poisoning at a hockey rink and authoring an amicus brief on behalf of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities addressing Wisconsin's governmental immunity law – a matter he also argued before the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Kyle enjoys representing municipalities and helping his clients deal with the unique challenges they face as public entities.

Anita T. Gallucci is a partner in the Madison law firm of Boardman & Clark LLP, where for the last 29 years, she has practiced primarily in the areas of energy, telecommunications, broadband, video franchise, right-of-way management, and municipal law. She has represented municipalities and municipal utilities before the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Federal Communications Commission. She serves as legal counsel for the Municipal Electric Utilities of Wisconsin. Anita also represents municipalities and their utilities with respect to electric service territory disputes, territorial agreements, customer and facilities transfers, water tower leases for communications equipment, pole attachment agreements, as well as the formation of municipal broadband utilities. Anita is a past Chair of the Public Utilities Law Section of the Wisconsin State Bar. She received her B.A. (1976) and M.A. (1978) from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her J.D. (1989) from the University of Wisconsin Law School.

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James Godlewski is the Neenah City Attorney, serving since 2002. A graduate of UW-Madison (1979) and New York University School of Law (1983), Jim was Merrill City Attorney from 1992 to 2002. Prior to a municipal law career, he was also Director of Financing Programs for the Wisconsin Partnership for Housing Development in Milwaukee from 1988 to 1992 and Executive Director of a private legal clinic in Chicago from 1985 to 1988. Jim started his career in private practice in Chicago. He served as President of the Government Lawyers Division Board of the State Bar of Wisconsin from 2005 to 2007 and has served on that board since 2000. He is Past-President of the Lincoln County Bar Association, Past-President of the Attorney's Section of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, and has been involved in various bar-related activities. Jim is a member of the American Bar Association Section of State and Local Government Law and of the International Municipal Attorneys Association.

Sally McCarthy Godlewski of McCarthy Godlewski LLC practices in the areas of Trademark, Copyright, Trade Secret, Confidentiality, and Licensing in the Fox Valley. She advises and counsels on the development, application, prosecution, defense and enforcement for Intellectual Property matters. Ms. McCarthy Godlewski has worked successfully to protect her clients' Intellectual Property in the U.S., People's Republic of China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Japan, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam and Cambodia, Ms. McCarthy Godlewski serves on the Board of the American Origin Products Association. She previously served as an adjunct faculty member at Lakeland College and at Fox Valley Technical College. She also served on the Board of Collaborative Professionals of Northeast Wisconsin.

Ms. McCarthy Godlewski is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, and an alumni member of the Wisconsin Family Court Commissioners Association. She is admitted to the U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Wisconsin. Ms. McCarthy Godlewski received her B.S. and J.D. from the University of Missouri-Columbia. She is licensed to practice law in New York, Connecticut, Missouri, Illinois and Wisconsin. In addition to her private practice, Ms. McCarthy Godlewski is employed part-time at Kohl's Department Stores as Intellectual Property Legal Counsel.

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Saveon Grenell is an Assistant City Attorney with the Milwaukee City Attorney's Office. He is a 2014 graduate of Texas Southern University, Thurgood Marshall School of Law. While at the City Attorney's Office, Saveon has worked with Milwaukee Police Department and other agencies as a community prosecutor on issues affecting neighborhoods such as nuisance properties. He has also engaged in general municipal prosecution, building and zoning prosecution and was heavily involved in the City's federal litigation involving dockless scooters. In his work, he has written legal opinions for and advised various departments such as the Milwaukee Police Department and the Department of Public Works regarding traffic enforcement and has advised the Department of Neighborhood Services regarding building and zoning violations. He serves as an appointed member on the Leadership Development Committee of the State Bar of Wisconsin and has recently been elected to the Board of Directors for the Government Lawyers Division of the State Bar.

Art Harrington is a lawyer for Godfrey & Kahn where he practices as part of the firm's Environmental/Energy Team. He serves on a number of DNR Advisory committees including the Brownfield Advisory Committee, the Air Management Study Group and the Green Tier Advisory Committee. Art also serves as an Adjunct Professor at the Marquette University Law School where he teaches an Energy Law Workshop.

Elizabeth Hummitzsch is Vice President at Mueller Communications where her responsibilities include ensuring quality and consistency in client services across the agency, serving as a resource for existing and potential new clients and managing several internal teams to create and execute marketing and public relations strategies for a diverse client portfolio. Elizabeth joined Mueller in 2008.

Elizabeth holds a degree in communication arts from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is proud to be a Badger. She is a part of TEMPO Milwaukee's Emerging Women Leaders Program, designed to nurture and elevate the next generation of women leaders in Milwaukee. Elizabeth co-chairs the group's community involvement committee.

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Douglas M. Ihrke is Chair and Professor in the Department of Public and Nonprofit Administration at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM) where he also serves as the Executive Director of the Helen Bader Institute (HBI) for Nonprofit Management. For 12 years he served as Director of the Master of Public Administration (MPA) program at UWM. Dr. Ihrke conducts research primarily on local governments and nonprofit organizations and is most interested in the connection between the governance of these institutions and their overall performance. In his free time, he likes to fish and hunt.

Todd D. Jex is a shareholder with Crivello Carlson. He concentrates his practice in civil litigation with emphasis in the areas of construction litigation, contract and commercial litigation, personal injury defense, professional liability, and commercial and residential real estate. Todd not only devotes his practice to litigation, but also counsels clients on litigation avoidance and represents clients in mediation and arbitration proceedings as a means of alternative dispute resolution. In the context of construction law, Todd also performs contract review for general contractors, subcontractors, owners, and design professionals and handles payment disputes and construction lien matters.

Aviva Meridian Kaiser is Ethics Counsel at the State Bar of Wisconsin. Prior to joining the State Bar in 2013, she taught at the University of Wisconsin Law School for 25 years. She taught Professional Responsibilities, Ethical and Professional Considerations in Writing, Problem Solving, and Risk Management. From 1992 until 2002, she was the Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program. Aviva received her B.A. in Chinese from the University of Pittsburgh and her J.D. from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School. She clerked for the Honorable Louis B. Garippo in *People v. John Wayne Gacy* and clerked for the Honorable Maurice Perlin in the Illinois Appellate Court. She practiced law in Chicago before beginning her full-time teaching career at IIT Chicago/Kent College of Law. Aviva is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin, a Wisconsin Law Fellow, an American Bar Foundation Fellow, and a frequent speaker on matters of professional ethics.

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Eric J. Larson is a shareholder with Municipal Law & Litigation Group, S.C. in Waukesha, Wisconsin, which represents municipalities throughout Wisconsin as municipal attorney, special counsel, and litigation defense counsel. He is the Village Attorney for the Village of Fox Point, the Village of Dousman, the Village of Slinger, the Village of Reeseville, the Village of Rochester, the Village of Wind Point, and Town Attorney for the Town of Troy, the Town of Lowell, and the Town of Delafield, and serves as special counsel to numerous other municipal entities. Eric has practiced municipal law in Minnesota (admitted 1990) and Wisconsin (admitted 1994), first in-house as an assistant county attorney, and in private municipal practice since 1994. He is a regular speaker at the annual meetings of the League of Wisconsin Municipalities Municipal Attorneys Institute, the Wisconsin Towns Association Town Attorneys Institute, and national webinars on municipal topics, and he has long served as chair of the Waukesha County Bar Association municipal section. Eric is a graduate of Earlham College and the University of Minnesota Law School. Eric is grateful for the collegiality of the municipal bar, which elevates the practice, and which is on display each year at the League Attorney's Institute.

Trena Larson is the Director of Finance/Treasurer for the City of Oshkosh since April 2014. She is responsible for the following divisions: Finance, Collections, Accounting, Payroll, Parking, and Water/Sewer/Storm Water Utilities. Her role assists the City Manager in preparing the City Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget. In addition, Trena is responsible for the administration of budgeted funds and initiates all borrowing included in the annual CIP plan. Prior to her appointment as Director of Finance/Treasurer, she was the Administrative Coordinator/Finance Director for Adams County. Trena has an Associate Degree in Accounting from Western Technical College and a Bachelor of Business Administration degree, with an emphasis on Organizational Management from Viterbo University.

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Scott R. Letteney is the City Attorney for the City of Racine. His legal practice focuses primarily on labor and employment law, contracts, claims, litigation, and general municipal law. He is also the municipal judge for the Town of Geneva, having so served since 1999, and is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee (UWM), where he teaches Organizational Theory and Practice and the Capstone Seminar in the Master of Public Administration program. Scott is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel, having served as an active-duty and Wisconsin Air National Guard judge advocate. Among the highlights of his career, he was an assistant professor of law at the United States Air Force Academy and deployed overseas for various military operations, including Operation Southern Watch, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Scott holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in political science; a Master of Public Administration degree with a municipal management concentration, from University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (UWM); and received his Juris Doctorate from Marquette University Law School. He has attained “All But Dissertation” status in UWM’s Urban Studies PhD program, with an urban politics and administration specialization, and with a dissertation target completion date of Fall 2019.

Lynn Lorensen is the City Attorney for the City of Oshkosh. She has worked for the City of Oshkosh for 27 years, the last 10 years as the City Attorney. Lynn grew up in Sturgeon Bay, attended Carroll College in Waukesha and the University of Nottingham England for her undergraduate work, and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. She has worked on a number of brownfield and redevelopment projects, including a former WPS site which was redeveloped into a municipal park with amphitheater; a number of former manufacturing sites along the City’s riverfront; development of the City of Oshkosh’s Riverwalk; Oshkosh Corporation’s Global Headquarters facility; and the new home of the Milwaukee Buck’s G-League team the Wisconsin Herd.

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

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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 2019 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.

James Madlom is Chief Operating Officer of Mueller Communications. In addition to his role overseeing the work of the firm, he manages a variety of client teams responsible for developing and implementing community relations and public affairs strategies, public awareness campaigns and marketing communications plans.

James earned both his bachelor’s degree and law degree, magna cum laude, from Marquette University. He is an active member of his community, serving as a director on the boards of the Alzheimer’s Association of Southeastern Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public Theatre, SaintA and St. Charles Youth & Family Services. He is an active volunteer with Rotary Club of Milwaukee. Previously, he has served as President of the Shorewood Foundation, as part of the United Performing Arts (UPAF) Campaign Cabinet, and as a board member with Volunteer Center of Milwaukee, Everyday Philanthropists and Non-Profit Center of Milwaukee.

Mary O’Connor is Partner, Forensic and Valuation Services of Sikich LLP. She has worked exclusively in the field of forensics since 1979 specializing in forensic consulting in litigation and fraud matters for municipalities and corporations; and has provided litigation consulting and expert witness testimony to Federal, State and local jurisdictions

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across the United States and internationally. She routinely works with municipal governments and law enforcement to solve issues related to employee dishonesty and independent support for insurance claims, civil litigation and restitution matters. Mary served as the elected Commissioner of Finance, City Treasurer for her hometown for two terms which gives her unique perspective into the pressures and constraints facing local governments when dealing with fraud incidents. Becoming a Partner of Sikich LLP in 2010, she was formerly employed by the international forensic accounting firm of RGL, Inc., and Deloitte. She holds a B.A. from the University of Illinois, Urbana, an M.B.A. with a concentration in finance from Georgia State University, Atlanta, is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and a Senior Member of the American Society of Appraisers (ASA). Mary also holds a Certificate in Municipal Internal Controls from the Carl Vinson Institute of Government, University of Georgia.

John Osborne is a Principal Hydrogeologist and Senior Vice President with the Boston-Based Consulting firm of GZA. He received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Geological Sciences and Geophysics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. John manages and directs a large diversity of hydrogeologic, environmental and groundwater resource projects implemented by teams of engineers and scientists at GZA. He has taken active roles in representing clients and negotiating technical issues with the USEPA, the Department of Justice, the Wisconsin DNR and many other state regulatory agencies. His areas of specialization have included geological and hydrogeological site characterization and development of conceptual site models (CSMs) used in unraveling the complexities of contaminant migration including emerging contaminants such as PFAS, and the selection of remedial solutions that balance both risk and cost. While based in Wisconsin, John has responsibility for GZA's operations throughout the Great Lake's states.

Mr. Osborne received his Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees in Geological Sciences and Geophysics from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

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Julia K. Potter practices with Boardman & Clark, LLP in Madison, Wisconsin and is a member of the firm's municipal and commercial real estate practice groups. Julia assists individuals, businesses, and municipalities with a wide range of legal issues involving real estate, land use, and municipal law – from drafting and negotiating purchase and sale agreements, easements, leases, and declarations to assisting clients with development issues, right-of-way regulation, tax increment financing, telecommunications siting, zoning changes and variances, and all manner of disputes regarding real estate. She also serves as Village Attorney for the Village of West Baraboo.

Julia received her law degree, summa cum laude, from the University of Michigan Law School and her B.A. from Brown University. She is a member of the State Bar of Wisconsin and the American, Dane County, and Sauk County Bar Associations, as well as the American Planning Association. Julia also sits on the City of Fitchburg Zoning Board of Appeals and is a member of the Rotary Club of Madison – After Hours, Habitat for Humanity Young Professionals of Dane County, and United Way's Rosenberry Society. Julia and was named an "Up and Coming Lawyer" by the Wisconsin Law Journal in 2018.

Claire Silverman is Legal Counsel for the League of Wisconsin Municipalities. She supervises the legal services provided by the League; answers questions of a general nature for officials and employees of member municipalities; writes legal articles for the League's magazine and amicus briefs in appellate cases involving issues of statewide concern to municipalities; organizes an annual institute for municipal attorneys; and educates local officials on a variety of topics pertaining to their duties. She also coordinates legal material for the League's website. Claire joined the League staff in 1992.

Christopher R. Smith is a 2004 Marquette Law School graduate and employed at Wesolowski, Reidenbach & Sajdak, S.C. He is currently the City Attorney for the City of South Milwaukee and the Village Attorney for the Village of Mount Pleasant. Chris is the founder and President of 'Da Crusher Foundation, a charitable organization that recently installed a life size bronze statue of South Milwaukee legend Reggie "Da Crusher"

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Lisowski. He is a two-time WIAA Division III football state champion (1995 & 1996) as a member of the mighty New Berlin Eisenhower Lions.

Tyrone St. Junior, II, is an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Milwaukee, and a 2010 graduate of Marquette University Law School. He obtained his philosophy degree in his hometown at Loyola University New Orleans. Tyrone primarily represents the City of Milwaukee Licenses Division, but also represents the Common Council in license related matters, and advises the city on election law, 1st Amendment issues, municipal prosecution, and nuisance abatement. Prior to his employment at the City of Milwaukee, he spent six years as a felony prosecutor in the Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office.

Adrian Stocks

James Walsh is the elected City Attorney for the City of Appleton and has served in that capacity since 2000. Prior to becoming City Attorney he worked as the Assistant City Attorney in Appleton from 1989 to 2000 and before that was the Assistant District Attorney in Richland County. Jim graduated from Marquette University with a BA degree in Political Science and received a Law Degree from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington in 1985.

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.

Municipal Attorney Section Officers and League Staff

The 2019 program was planned by the officers for the Municipal Attorneys Section and League Staff.

Municipal Attorneys Section Officers

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.

Lynn Lorensen, President

Lynn Lorensen is the City Attorney for the City of Oshkosh. She has worked for the City of Oshkosh for 27 years, the last 10 years as the City Attorney. Lynn grew up in Sturgeon Bay, attended Carroll College in Waukesha and the University of Nottingham England for her undergraduate work, and received her Juris Doctorate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School. She has worked on a number of brownfield and redevelopment projects, including a former WPS site which was redeveloped into a municipal park with amphitheater; a number of former manufacturing sites along the City's riverfront; development of the City of Oshkosh's Riverwalk; Oshkosh Corporation's Global Headquarters facility; and the new home of the Milwaukee Bucks' G-League team the Wisconsin Herd.

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Maria Davis, Assistant Legal Counsel

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