



OFFICIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
MEETING OF THE REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

SMALL CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING AT 450 S. MAIN ST., RICHLAND CENTER, WI 53581

AGENDA

ROLL CALL *Roll Call for the meeting, determine whether a quorum is present; determine whether the meeting has been properly noticed.*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- [1.](#) September 8, 2026 Meeting Minutes

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- [2.](#) Review Bids and Consider Selection of Vendor for "Property for Sale" Sign
- [3.](#) Consider Legal Counsel Proposal

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

SET NEXT MEETING DATE

ADJOURNMENT

Posted this 13th day of October, 2026 by 4:30 PM.
Copy to the official newspaper the Richland Observer.

PLEASE NOTE: To request disability-related accommodations, please contact City Administrator Ashley Oliphant (608-647-3466 or 450 S. Main St.) at least 24 hours in advance. Notice is hereby given that a quorum of other city governmental bodies may be present at this meeting for informational and discussion purposes only, and no formal action will be taken by those bodies at this meeting. The City of Richland Center is an equal opportunity employer, provider, and lender.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2026 AT 5:30 PM

COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE MUNICIPAL BUILDING
450 S MAIN ST, RICHLAND CENTER WI 53581

ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by Chair Collins at 5:33 PM. Members present: John Collins, Karin Tepley, Barb Shannon, Keith Behling, Ray Wilson, Doug Martyniuk. Members absent: Marsha Machotka. A quorum was present. Affirmed proper notice of the meeting.

1. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Behling to approve the March 25, 2026 Meeting Minutes, seconded by Shannon. Motion carried unanimously.
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Ray Wilson reported the following: Beginning balance of \$75,303.92, one payment to Abt Swayne for \$1,785, plus interest for ending balance of \$75,020.57. *[Edit – Balance as of 07/31/2026 was \$76,614.56, interest of \$191.01, ending balance as of 08/31/2026 \$76,805.57; Abt Swayne bill of \$1,785 was made from city's general account and transferred to show payment from RDA on 9/14. Ending balance as of 09/14 \$75,020.57]*

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS:

Collins made a motion for current members to remain in the same positions they have been serving, seconded by Shannon. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Proposal by Bedward Properties: Collins reported he had received a message from Bedward stating they have decided to wait at this time. Lawyer needs to revise numbers. Discussed how Bedward properties would fit into the lot.
4. RDA Property at 300 W Union Street & 300 N Orange Street: Look into obtaining pricing for a "Property For Sale" sign. Motion by Behling to obtain bids for "Property For Sale" signs, seconded by Collins. Motion carried unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION: Did not convene in closed session due to the individual withdrawing their offer, making the matter moot.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: consideration of change in legal counsel, RDA authority with hotel project

NEXT MEETING DATE: Tuesday, September 29, 2026

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Tepley, second by Wilson to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Notes provided by Doug Martyniuk, RDA Secretary

Minutes typed by Jeanie Parker, Administrative Assistant in Clerk/Treasurer Office

**COMMERCIAL
PROPERTY**

FOR SALE

608-647-3466

24" x 18"
Double-Sided
6mm Aluminum
Composite Panel
with Printed Vinyl
Graphics

24" x 6"
Double-Sided
6mm Aluminum
Composite Panel
with Black Vinyl
Graphics

(1) Steel Drop-In Sign Frame with Pointed Legs for Ground Installation

Re: Commercial Property Sign - John Collins

09/28/2026

Good Afternoon John,

After pricing out this sign I gave it some thought and I thought that if this sign is going to be temporary or not up very long I thought I would give you pricing for a realty frame style sign. The panel can easily be removed at any point and reused if you choose to reuse them and it can easily be installed in the ground by one person without digging any holes in the ground. For this type of sign I came up with a price of **\$430.00 + tax**. The price includes materials, art setup and labor.

If you have any questions please let me know, otherwise just let me know if you wish to proceed with this signage and we can move forward from there.

Thanks!

Sierra Machovec

Lead Designer

Phone: (608) 647-0149

Email: smachovec.blsignage@gmail.com

Website: www.blsignage.com

33 East Main Street
Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703-3095

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 2038
Madison, WI 53701-2038

Phone:

608.257.7181

Fax:

608.257.2508

www.murphydesmond.com

Michael S. Windle
Direct Line 608.268.5605
Facsimile 608.257.2508
mwindle@murphydesmond.com



Item 3.

6 October 2026

VIA EMAIL

John Collins
RDA Chair
450 South Main Street
Richland Center, WI 53581
clnsclan@charter.net

Re: Proposal for Legal Services

Dear Mr. Collins:

I am proud to submit the attached as Murphy Desmond S.C.'s response to the City of Richland Center Redevelopment Authority's request for contracted legal services. Murphy Desmond is now able to offer not only the local representation the RDA has enjoyed for the past several years, but a robust team of attorneys and legal professionals who will be able to respond to the RDA's legal needs more quickly and thoroughly.

If you have any questions regarding our response, or if you need anything further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "MSW", written over a horizontal line.

Michael S. Windle

MSW:rsb

4915-2250-3895, v. 1

PROPOSAL

**FOR LEGAL SERVICES FOR
THE RICHLAND CENTER
REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY**

Prepared by:

MURPHY DESMOND S.C.

**33 East Main Street, Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
Ph: (608) 257-7181**

and

**101 East Milwaukee Street, Suite 301
Janesville, WI 53545
Ph: (608) 314-3800**

and

**15 Park Place, Suite 300
Appleton, WI 54914
Ph: (920) 882-7630**

and

**126 North Iowa Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Ph: (608) 937-0467**

October 6, 2026



I. EXPERIENCE AND FIRM QUALIFICATIONS

We are pleased to present this proposal to the Richland Center Redevelopment Authority (“RDA”) to provide for its general legal services. Murphy Desmond was founded in 1931, and is proud of its long-standing tradition, professional service and innovation. With over thirty practicing and emeritus attorneys supported by an experienced staff of legal professionals, Murphy Desmond is a full-service law firm that provides clients with high-quality legal services and advice. Murphy Desmond provides timely and innovative solutions in the areas of municipal law, business law, collections, real estate law, immigration law, construction law, labor and employment law, litigation, bankruptcy law, as well as other practice areas. Because of the breadth and depth of our experience, we believe that we are uniquely qualified to provide the legal services that the RDA requires.

The core of the municipal law group, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Braithwaite, Mr. Windle and Ms. Jens, have combined, over 80 years of experience providing legal representation to local units of government, including RDAs, throughout the State, as both general counsel as well as for litigation or other special projects. During their careers, they have dealt extensively with all areas of local governmental law. More specific details can be found below in our discussion of each attorney and in their accompanying bios. In addition to their long history and depth of experience in all areas of municipal law, our municipal law team also includes Attorney Matthew J. Frank, former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Assistant Attorney General who provides substantial expertise in the areas of environmental and state administrative and regulatory law.

Our experience is varied, and our range of our local governmental clients runs from being the primary counsel for the City of Middleton, a growing, urbanized community on the west side of Madison, to the Town of Brigham, a rural community in Iowa County, on the other. This

breadth of experience will allow Murphy Desmond to readily perform all aspects of representation for the RDA.

As a further illustration of our base of knowledge and experience, below is a list of cases in which Murphy Desmond attorneys have represented either local governments or private parties on local governmental matters in published Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases. This list does not include the numerous unpublished Court of Appeals opinions which do not create binding legal precedent, or ongoing appeals in which our attorneys are involved.

Wisconsin Court of Appeals Cases

Bloomer Hous. Ltd. P'ship v. City of Bloomer, 2002 WI App. 252, 257 Wis. 2d 883, 653 N.W.2d 309;

KW Holdings, L.L.C. v. City of Windsor, 2003 WI App. 9, 258 Wis. 2d 357, 656 N.W.2d 752 (subdivision/annexation);

Village of Windsor v. City of DeForest, 2003 WI App. 114, 265 Wis. 2d 591, 666 N.W.2d 31 (annexation);

Mineral Point Valley Ltd. P'ship v. City of Mineral Point Bd. of Review, 2004 WI App. 158, 275 Wis. 2d 784, 686 N.W.2d 697;

D.S.G. Evergreen F.L.P. v. Town of Perry, 2007 WI App. 115, 300 Wis. 2d 590, 731 N.W.2d 667;

State ex. rel Herro v. City of McFarland, 2007 WI App. 172, 737 N.W.2d 55 (open meetings law);

State ex rel. Gehl v. Connors, 2007 WI App. 238, 306 Wis. 2d 247, 742 N.W.2d 530 (Mandamus action seeking production of public records);

State ex. rel Kuehne v. Burdette, 2009 WI App. 119, 320 Wis. 2d 784, 772 N.W.2d 225 (constitutionality of incorporation process);

Bonstores Realty One, LLC v. City of Wauwatosa, 2013 WI App. 131, 351 Wis. 2d 439, 839 N.W.2d 893 (Property tax assessment challenge on mall department store property);

Wisconsin Supreme Court Cases

Wis. Dolls, LLC v. Town of Dell Prairie, 2012 WI 76, 342 Wis. 2d 350, 815 N.W.2d 690 (Challenge against the imposition of significant new restrictions on alcohol license without proper procedure);

McKee Family I, LLC v. City of Fitchburg, 2017 WI 34, 374 Wis. 2d 487, 893 N.W.2d 12 (Property owner challenge of rezoning based on vested rights);

DSG Evergreen Family Ltd. P'ship v. Town of Perry, 2020 WI 23, 390 Wis. 2d 533, 939 N.W.2d 564. (Regarding Town obligations to complete a project for which eminent domain was exercised.)

Existing Municipal Clients and References

The following is a list of current municipal clients of Murphy Desmond. For reference purposes, Mr. Morgan's closest recent working relationships are with the City of Edgerton, the Villages of New Glarus and Monticello, and the Towns of Oregon, Lodi, Fulton and Albion. Mr. Fleming's closest recent working relationships are with the City of Middleton, Town of Vienna, Town of Dekorra and the Town of Dunn, and he is currently handling litigation and other special matters for the Cities of Eau Claire and Oshkosh. Mr. Braithwaite's closest working relationship is with the City of Eau Claire, where he handles various property tax litigation matters. Ms. Jens' closest working relationships are with the City of Edgerton, City of Middleton and the Village of New Glarus. Mr. Windle is presently the City Attorney for the City of Richland Center, and served the RDA with his previous firm. You are free to contact any of the contacts on the following pages for a reference.

City of Middleton

Bryan Gadow, City Administrator
 7426 Hubbard Avenue
 Middleton, WI 53562
 (608) 821-8358
bgadow@cityofmiddleton.us

City of Eau Claire

City Attorney Stephen C. Nick
 203 S. Farwell Street
 Eau Claire, WI 54702-5148
 (715) 839-6006
Stephen.Nick@eauclairewi.gov

City of Edgerton**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Ramona Flanigan, City Administrator
 12 Albion Street
 Edgerton, WI 53534
 (608) 844-3341
rflanigan@edgerton.wi.gov

City of Richland Center

Ashley Oliphant, City Administrator
 450 South Main Street
 Richland Center, WI 53581
 (608) 647-3466
ashley.oliphant@richlandcenterwi.gov

City of Oshkosh**(Eminent Domain and Real Estate Matters)**

Amy Vanden Hogen, City Attorney
 215 Church Avenue
 Oshkosh, WI 54903
 (920) 236-5115
avandenhogen@oshkoshwi.gov

Village of New Glarus**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Kelsey Jenson, Administrator
 319 Second Street
 New Glarus, WI 53574
 (608) 527-5971
administrator@newglarusvillage.com

Village of Monticello**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Aaron Bittner, Village President
 140 North Main Street
 Monticello, WI 53570
 (608) 938-4383
a.bittner@monticellowi.gov

Town of Brigham

Kirstin K. Melton, Town Clerk
 407 East Highway ID
 Barneveld, WI 53507
 (608) 924-1013
office@tn.brigham.wi.gov

Town of Dunn (Prosecutions)

Andrea Zacharias, Professional Judicial Assistant
 4156 County Road B
 McFarland, WI 53558
 (608) 838-1081 x 201
azacharias@townofdunnwi.gov

Town of Oregon (General Services)

Jennifer Hanson, Clerk
 1138 Union Road
 Oregon, WI 53575
 (608) 835-3200
jhanson@townoforegonwi.gov

Town of Fulton (Prosecutions)

Chief Tom Kunkle
 2738 W. Fulton Center Drive
 Edgerton, WI 53534
 (608) 868-4103
townoffulton.wi.gov

Town of Lodi**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Shellie Benish, Administrator
 W10919 County Road V
 Lodi, WI 53555
 (608) 592-4868
townoflodi@tn.lodi.wi.gov

Town of Dekorra (General Services)

Holly Priske, Town Clerk
 W8225 CTY JV
 PO Box 536
 Poynette, WI 53955
 (608) 635-2014
townclerk@dekorra-wi.gov

Town of Albion**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Julie Hanewall, Clerk/Treasurer
 620 Albion Road
 Edgerton, WI 53534
 608-884-8974
jhanewall@townofalbion.net

**Town of Vienna
(General Services)**
Kathleen Clark, Town Clerk
7161 County Highway I
DeForest, WI 53532
(608) 846-3800
clerk@viennawi.gov

List of Murphy Desmond Attorneys and Shareholders

The following is a list of all of Murphy Desmond's attorneys, as well as principals. We are happy to provide specific biographies for each attorney upon request. (Shareholders are shown in bold *italics*.)

Peter A. Bazianos
Alex J. Becker
Ryan G. Braithwaite
Jonathan P. Bruni
Gretchen J. Burgess
Axel Candelaria Rivera
Sarah H. DeKraay
Matthew J. Fleming
Matthew J. Frank
Liam F. Gilhooly
Dave M. Gorwitz
Gayle B. Jebbia
Katherine A. Jens
Vernon J. Jesse
Daniel J. Lipman

Glorily A. Lopez
Thais S. Marques
Daniel J. McGarry
Mario D. Mendoza
Stephen L. Morgan
William E. Morgan
Jason J. Reed
Lane Rideout
Scott G. Salemi
Walter R. Stewart
Emma K. Stippich
Lydia N. Thompson
Harvey L. Wendel
Ruth Westmont
Michael S. Windle
Jane F. (Ginger) Zimmerman

II. ATTORNEYS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICES

We propose that Michael S. Windle be the primary service provider to the RDA for the legal services. Other members from the rest of our municipal team are available as needed. The members of our municipal team have decades of experience in municipal work and are each eminently qualified to provide the services that the RDA may require. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Fleming each have extensive experience in all facets of the municipal work, and Mr. Windle is

familiar with the RDA's specific legal needs. Below is a brief description of each attorney's background.

William E. Morgan

Mr. Morgan is a shareholder at Murphy Desmond, joining Murphy Desmond in 2009 after serving as the Green County Corporation Counsel for 11 years, and as assistant corporation counsel for Barron County before that. He is currently the City Attorney and prosecutor for the City of Edgerton, as well as being the General Attorney and prosecutor for the Town of Lodi, the Village of New Glarus and the Village of Monticello, and is also the prosecutor for the Towns of Albion, Fulton and Lodi. In addition to his work as a prosecutor, Mr. Morgan focuses his practice on employment, open meetings and public records law, municipal litigation and human resources. He also provides as needed municipal legal services for a number of other communities as well as providing services to Murphy Desmond's other general clients as needed, particularly on employment-related matters. Finally, Mr. Morgan serves as the Firm's chief ethics officer and has previously served on the District 12 Board of Professional Responsibilities for the State Bar.

Matthew J. Fleming

Mr. Fleming is a shareholder at Murphy Desmond and has been with the firm for over 25 years. His practice is focused on municipal law and related areas including land use regulation, economic development, construction and other contracts, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments, eminent domain, general litigation and municipal court prosecution. He has been practicing local government law for over 27 years beginning with his employment as Assistant City Attorney for the City of La Crosse in 1999. Mr. Fleming is the City Attorney for the City of Middleton and Town Attorney for the Towns of Brigham and Dekorra. He has experience in all

areas of municipal law, including tax incremental financing agreements, and is handling special matters for the Cities of Eau Claire and Oshkosh.

Ryan G. Braithwaite

Mr. Braithwaite's legal practice focuses on municipal law, municipal litigation, and general litigation in Wisconsin. He has over 20 years of experience representing municipalities in contract disputes, defense of high-end property tax appeals, eminent domain, handling special assessments, land use, zoning regulations, drafting municipal ordinances and contracts, and open meetings/records.

Additionally, Mr. Braithwaite has significant litigation experience in matters such as commercial disputes, contract disputes, product liability, insurance defense, trademark and copyright, federal and appellate litigation, and personal injury cases, and has argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the 7th Circuit.

Michael S. Windle

Mr. Windle assists our municipal clients in areas including land use regulation, property tax assessment, eminent domain disputes, economic development, tax incremental financing, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments and general litigation.

Katherine A. Jens

Ms. Katherine (Katie) Jens, a graduate of Florida State University College of Law, comes to Murphy Desmond with an interest in planning and zoning, as well as environmental law. Her attention to detail, research, and drafting capabilities have already proven to be instrumental to a number of our firm's municipal clients, and we expect that she will continue to be a valuable member of the municipal team in the years to come. She is currently providing back-up

prosecutorial services for the village of Edgerton and the towns of Fulton and Albion on as needed basis.

Support and Backup

Murphy Desmond is a full-service law firm and has ample support from a dedicated team of legal assistants, paralegals, and IT personnel. As such, there will always be someone available to provide any service the RDA requires.

As far as attorney services are concerned, in the event Mr. Windle is unavailable, as illustrated above, any of our municipal team would be available and each are eminently qualified to provide day-to-day assistance, including attendance at any meeting of the RDA if Mr. Windle has a time conflict. While each has in-depth experience in all areas of municipal law, different firm attorneys have different strengths and will be relied upon from time to time to ensure the RDA continues to receive the best representation available for the issue at hand.

III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CLAIMS EXPERIENCE

We have reviewed our existing clients list, and we are unaware of any current conflicts of interest, nor are we aware of any situations that appear to present any imminent potential for a conflict of interest. We are however a relatively large firm and conflicts do occasionally arise. We run conflict checks whenever new files are opened or whenever it appears we may be required to take an adverse position to anyone dealing with an existing client. We are bound by the rules of professional responsibility in all instances, and those rules will sometimes require complete withdrawal from representation of any party. Whenever our firm is permitted to represent one party or another in a conflict situation, we follow the rule that the first client in the door is the client we will represent. Accordingly, once we begin representing the RDA, circumstances where we would be unable to represent the RDA would be extremely rare. Any other client coming to

the firm to deal with a matter that is adverse to the RDA will be required to seek other counsel. As part of our service to our clients, we do not bill for checking conflicts of interest.

As for our claims' experience, we are proud to report that none of our current attorneys have received any public or private reprimands from the Office of Lawyer Regulation. As for malpractice claims, like most firms there have been claims filed at times over the years, but there have not been any claims paid regarding any attorney currently affiliated with Murphy Desmond and no claims involving anyone in the municipal law group.

IV. PROPOSED BILLING ARRANGEMENT AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

Murphy Desmond has reviewed the RDA's previous legal needs. Until we have a feel for the amount of work required, we are proposing to provide the routine legal services at a fixed hourly rate as follows:

2026

- Bill Morgan \$280.00
- Matt Fleming \$280.00
- Michael Windle \$225.00
- Katie Jens \$210.00

2027

- Bill Morgan \$290.00
- Matt Fleming \$290.00
- Michael Windle \$250.00
- Katie Jens \$220.00

If appeals to a higher court are required, billing rates are proposed as follows:

2026 - 2027

- Bill Morgan \$305.00
- Matt Fleming \$305.00
- Michael Windle \$265.00
- Katie Jens \$225.00

As seen above, at this time we are proposing an hourly basis fee structure. Once we have a better sense of the volume of the work, we would be willing to propose a retainer agreement, or

a combination retainer and hourly structure, for all or a portion of the work as deemed appropriate. All work, including meeting attendance and travel, is billed at the rates listed above.

As we are a full-service firm, if there are services which the RDA needs which are beyond what would ordinarily be expected for a municipal client, we would enter into a separate agreement as to those services which would then be billed in accordance with that agreement. Currently paralegals are infrequently relied upon in our municipal practice, but in the event they are used for any project, their work will be billed at a rate not to exceed \$150.00.

Murphy Desmond will provide a detailed monthly invoice for all services rendered. For the purposes of billing, the Firm uses increments of a tenth of an hour and invoices are issued monthly.

In the event any of our Firm's other shareholders perform work under this Agreement, their rate may vary depending on the attorney and particular expertise, but in no event will a rate be billed which is higher than the highest rate quoted above without the RDA's prior consent. We do not ordinarily bill for services of legal assistants, nor for office copying costs. Subpoena, witness and service fees, court transcripts, outside copying costs and other necessary out of pocket expenses, including mileage at the then-current IRS rate will be billed as incurred.

4898-9576-9303, v. 1



WILLIAM E. MORGAN

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Business Law
Employment & Labor Law
Litigation
Municipal Law
Eminent Domain
Business Startup/ Entrepreneur
Legal Services
Guardianships (Adult)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 1992
U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin, 1992

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin,
1992, J.D.
University of Wisconsin,
Stevens Point,
1989, B.A.

✉ wmorgan@murphydesmond.com 📞 (608) 268-5576 📠 (608) 257-2508

Attorney Bill Morgan represents both public and private employers with a focus on employment and personnel-related matters, including discrimination claims, administrative issues, sexual harassment, and all matters affecting human resources departments such as health care, employee benefits, and employment contracts.

Bill's municipal law practice emphasizes open meeting and open record matters, drafting and enforcement of zoning and land use regulations, contract review, litigation, labor relations and collective bargaining, municipal collections, and employee-related matters. Prior to joining Murphy Desmond, Bill served over 12 years as corporate counsel for Wisconsin counties, where he gained an in-depth knowledge of the needs and issues facing local government.

A shareholder with Murphy Desmond, Bill is named on Best Lawyers in America in Employment Law-Management and Municipal Law. He is also a state licensed lobbyist with interest in matters affecting the growth of businesses throughout Wisconsin. Bill is active in the community and has served on the board for Community Around The Children's Hospital (CATCH) to benefit the American Family Children's Hospital, as President of the Board of Directors for Monona East Side Business Alliance (MESBA), and has served on other professional and charitable boards.



<https://www.bestlawyers.com/lawyers/william-e-bill-morgan/266624>

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Best Lawyers in America - Municipal Law (2026 - Present)
- Best Lawyers in America - Employment Law-Management (2021 - Present)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Monona East Side Business Alliance (MESBA), Board of Directors (2019); President of the Board (2020)
- Community Around The Children's Hospital (CATCH), Board Member
- Leadership Greater Madison Alumni Association, President (2016)
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Fund Development Committee, Past

- Leadership Greater Madison, Class of 2010
- Rainbow Childcare, Inc., Board of Directors, Past President, VP
- Green County Family YMCA, Board of Directors, Past President, VP
- PPAC Court Security Subcommittee (2007-2010)
- District 12 Committee, Office of Lawyer Regulation (2006-2008)
- Dane County Bar Association
- State Bar of Wisconsin

FUN FACT

Bill is an Ironman and then some! He has completed three Ironman (IM) races in Wisconsin ('04, '06 and '08) which includes a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and full marathon 26.2-mile run -- all in one day! He has also done several half-IM races, completed a stand-alone marathon, and rode his bike in a one-day solo ride from Rice Lake to Sturgeon Bay, WI (nearly 300 miles). Ask Bill to show you his IM tattoo!



MATTHEW J. FLEMING

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Alternative Dispute Resolution -
Mediation & Arbitration
Eminent Domain
Litigation
Municipal Law
Real Estate, Land Use &
Construction
Environmental Law, Renewable
Energy & Sustainability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 1998
U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin, 1998

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin,
1998, J.D.
University of Wisconsin -
Madison,
1994, B.S.

✉ m Fleming@murphydesmond.com

☎ (608) 268-5606

📠 (608) 257-2508

Attorney Matt Fleming is a Shareholder at Murphy Desmond representing both public and private sector clients in municipal law and related areas including land use regulation, property tax assessment, eminent domain disputes, economic development, tax incremental financing, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments and general litigation.

Matt is also an established presenter on municipal law issues. He has given Continuing Legal Education lectures on topics relating to local government law through Lorman, National Business Institute and the State Bar of Wisconsin, including Open Meetings and Public Records Law, Building Code Enforcement, Land Use and Property Tax Assessment. He was a frequent lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Law School on Local Government Administrative Practice between 2009 and 2019.

Matt was named "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Municipal Law" in 2025 and 2023, and "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation-Land Use and Zoning" in 2026, 2024, and 2021, and "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation Municipal" in 2026 by Best Lawyers in America. He is on Best Lawyers lists in five categories: Municipal Law, Appellate Practice, Land Use and Zoning Law, Litigation-Municipal Law, Litigation-Land Use and Zoning. In addition, Matt was named a 2025 Wisconsin Super Lawyer in State/Local/Municipal Law. In 2015, Matt was recognized by Martindale-Hubbell and lawyers.com with an AV (top) rating. He was also named a "Rising Star" by Wisconsin Super Lawyers earlier in his career.



Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Municipal
Madison, Wisconsin
Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin
Matthew Fleming



Municipal Law
Madison, Wisconsin

Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin

Martindale-Hubbell®



Matthew Fleming



Municipal Law
Madison, Wisconsin
Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Best Lawyers in America - Land Use and Zoning Law (2027)
- Best Lawyers in America - Appellate Practice (2027)

- Madison Lawyer of the Year - Litigation-Municipal by Best Lawyers in America (2026)
- Wisconsin Super Lawyers - State/Local/Municipal Law (2025)
- Madison Lawyer of the Year-Municipal Law, by Best Lawyers in America (2025, 2023)
- Best Lawyers in America - Litigation-Municipal Law (2023 - Present)
- Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation-Land Use and Zoning, by Best Lawyers in America (2026, 2024, 2021)
- Best Lawyers in America - Litigation-Land Use and Zoning (2019 - Present)
- Best Lawyers in America - Municipal Law (2019 - Present)
- Rated AV (top rating) by Martindale Hubbell
- "Rising Star" - Municipal Law, Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Magazine (2006, 2007, 2011)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Administrative Law and Local Government Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Board of Directors (2011 - 2014)
- Dane County Bar Association, Member
- State Bar of Wisconsin, Member
- American Bar Association, Member

PUBLISHED WORKS:

- Interviewed for feature article: "Lawyers: Foxconn lawsuit not your typical eminent-domain dispute," *Wisconsin Law Journal* (January 23, 2018)



RYAN G. BRAITHWAITE

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Municipal Law
Litigation
Eminent Domain

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 2001
U.S. District Court Eastern
District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin
U.S. Court of Appeals 7th
Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law
School, Madison, Wisconsin,
2000, J.D.
Honors: magna cum laude
University of
Wisconsin-Madison,
Philosophy,
1997, B.A., Philosophy

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Attorney Ryan Braithwaite's legal practice focuses on municipal law, municipal litigation, and general litigation in Wisconsin. Ryan has over 20 years of experience representing municipalities in contract disputes, defense of high-end property tax appeals, eminent domain, handling special assessments, land use, zoning regulations, drafting municipal ordinances and contracts, and open meetings/records.

Ryan's litigation experience also includes non-municipal general litigation matters such as commercial disputes, contract disputes, product liability, insurance defense, trademark and copyright, federal and appellate litigation, and personal injury cases. Ryan has argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the 7th Circuit.

Ryan's background includes presenting on a range of legal topics before the Wisconsin State Bar, CVMIC, and the Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin. In addition, he has written articles published in *Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin* and *Wisconsin Realtor Magazine*. Earlier in his career, Ryan was recognized as a "Rising Star" by Wisconsin Super Lawyers.

Based in the firm's Madison office, Ryan is also available to assist clients in our Dodgeville and Janesville offices, and throughout Wisconsin.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Wisconsin Super Lawyers "Rising Star" - State, Local & Municipal Law (2007, 2011)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Wisconsin State Bar Association, Member (2001 - Present)
- Dane County Bar Association, Member (2025)
- American Bar Association, Member (Past)
- Milwaukee Bar Association, Member (Past)
- Civil Trial Counsel of America, Member (Past)
- Thomas E. Fairchild Inns of Court, Member (Past)

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT:

- Presenter, Wisconsin State Bar Annual Open Meetings/Records Conference (2012)
- Presenter, League of Wisconsin Municipalities Annual Assessor's Conference (2012 - 2019)

FUN FACT

Ryan enjoys spending time with his two dogs and is an avid car enthusiast.



MICHAEL WINDLE

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Guardianships (Adult)
Litigation
Municipal Law
Real Estate, Land Use & Construction
Estate Planning & Probate

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Court of Appeals
District Court in the Western District of Wisconsin

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, Madison, Wisconsin, 2019, J.D.
University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2015, B.A. Political Science and Legal Studies
Delaware Technical and Community College, Stanton/Wilmington, Delaware, 2013, Criminal Justice, Associate's Degree

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Attorney Michael (Mike) Windle is a member of Murphy Desmond's municipal, real estate, and estate planning groups. He assists municipal clients in areas including land use regulation, property tax assessment, eminent domain disputes, economic development, tax incremental financing, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments and general litigation. For private clients, he handles matters relating to titles, deeds, partitions, and property disputes, as well as probate matters, basic estate planning, and guardianships.

Mike began his practice serving rural communities and clients as a general practitioner, as corporation counsel for counties in the Driftless region, and by representing various local governments. He focuses on the presentation of complex legal matters in a way which can be understood and on representing his clients' interests both in and out of court.

Mike is based in Murphy Desmond's Madison office but is available to meet with clients in the firm's Janesville and Dodgeville offices as well.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Belle Case La Follette Award, State Bar of Wisconsin (2023)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- State Bar of Wisconsin

FUN FACT

Mike is an avid gamer and annually attends the World Boardgaming Championships in Pennsylvania.



KATHERINE A. JENS

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Municipal Law

Real Estate, Land Use & Construction

Environmental Law, Renewable Energy & Sustainability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 2024

EDUCATION

Florida State University College of Law, Tallahassee, Florida, 2024, J.D.

University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2020, Real Estate and Urban Land Economics, B.B.A.

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Attorney Katherine (Katie) Jens is a member of the firm's municipal, real estate law, and environmental law teams. Katie assists Murphy Desmond's municipal clients with drafting ordinances, contract review, negotiations, special assessments, and open meetings requirements. In real estate, Katie handles matters related to titles, deeds, zoning, property disputes, and transactional work such as buying and selling a home. Katie also works with the firm's environmental practice group on issues related to land use, climate factors, renewable energy, and sustainability.

A 2024 graduate of Florida State University College of Law, Katie worked as a law clerk where she assisted with real estate matters in estate planning, including transfer-on-death deeds. Katie also served as a student volunteer where she advised indigent clients on their rights and remedies in home ownership and renting matters. As an intern with a Wisconsin title company, Katie reviewed title insurance policies, examined closing statements for accuracy, and assisted at numerous closings.

While in law school, Katie served as an editor for the *Florida State University Business Review*, where she earned the 2022-2023 "Staff Editor of the Year" award.

Katie is available to assist clients in the firm's Madison, Janesville, and Dodgeville offices.

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Wisconsin State Bar Association, Member (2025 - Present)

FUN FACT

Katie enjoys spending time with friends and family in her free time!