



Joseph C. Svetanoff
Partner

Crown Point, IN
P: 219.794.1888
F: 219.794.1892
jcsvetanoff@kopkalaw.com

ADMISSIONS

Indiana
Illinois
U.S. District Courts for the
Northern and Southern Districts of
Indiana
U.S. District Courts for the
Northern, Southern, and Central
Districts of Illinois
U.S. Court of Appeals (Seventh
Circuit)

EDUCATION

Valparaiso University School of
Law, J.D.
Butler University, B.S.



Curriculum Vitae: Joseph C. Svetanoff

Joseph C. Svetanoff focuses his practice in the areas of municipal/local government—including utilities, land use, planning/zoning, general corporate services, real estate and commercial transactions, estate planning (including wills, trusts, and estates) and probate, employment law, as well as criminal law matters, including felony, misdemeanor, infraction, and ordinance violation.

As an accomplished municipal law attorney, Joseph has a wide range of experience providing knowledgeable assistance and representation to individuals and businesses in municipal matters involving planning, zoning, utilities, municipal financing, and corporate business transactions. He has represented, and continues to represent, town councils, board of zoning appeals, plan commissions, clerk-treasurers, township trustees, utility boards, and school districts.

Joseph provides guidance to employers on EEOC matters, FMLA issues, wage and hour questions, as well as contractual, procedural, and practical issues which surround the hiring, terminating, and disciplining of employees.

He has served as a public defender for nine years, and throughout that time, has negotiated more than 450 successful plea agreements on behalf of his clients. Early in his career he served as the Vice President of the Merrillville Chamber of Commerce and has been involved in local business since the inception of his professional career. It is this unique qualification that allows him to use his business experience when providing counseling and guidance for clients.

Joseph earned his J.D. in 2002 from Valparaiso University School of Law, and his B.S. in Marketing from Butler University. He is a member of the Lake County Bar Association and Indiana Public Defender Council. From 2014 to 2020, he served as a Commissioner and Secretary to the Indiana Gaming Commission and was appointed and re-appointed by two different Governors.

Representative Municipal Law Clients

Town of Merrillville - Civil Town (2018–present)

- Town Council, Redevelopment Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals, and Plan Commission

Town of Griffith - Civil Town (2018–present)

- Board of Zoning Appeals and Plan Commission

Griffith Public Schools (2017–present)

St. John Clerk-Treasurer (2016–present)

MEMBERSHIPS

- Lake County Bar Association
- Indiana Municipal Lawyer's Association
- Indiana Public Defender Council



Representative Municipal Law Clients *(Continued)*

Long Beach Clerk-Treasurer *(2016–present)*

Hobart Township *(2010–present)*

City of Lake Station *(2016–present)*

- Retained as Special Counsel

City of Lake Station *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2016–2017)*

- Board of Zoning Appeals and Plan Commission

Gary Sanitary District *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2013–2017)*

City of East Chicago *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2013–2017)*

East Chicago Housing Authority *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2013–2017)*

Town of Schererville - Civil Town *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2005–2013)*

- Town Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, Plan Commission, and Ordinance Violations Prosecutor

Town of Cedar Lake - Civil Town *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2005–2013)*

- Town Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, Plan Commission, and Ordinance Violations Prosecutor

Town of St. John - Civil Town *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2005–2013)*

- Town Council, Board of Zoning Appeals, Plan Commission, and Ordinance Violations Prosecutor

Hanover Township *(w/ predecessor Law Firm: 2005–2013)*

APPOINTMENTS AND CIVIL ACTIVITIES

Macedonian Cultural Center *(1996–present)*

- Member

Indiana Gaming Commission *(2014–2020)*

- Commissioner and Secretary

Northwest Indiana Boys and Girls Club *(2010–2017)*

- Corporate Board Member–Treasurer, Secretary, and Executive Committee