



JOSEPH C. SVETANOFF

SHAREHOLDER



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Practice Areas

- Corporate
- Municipal Liability Defense
- Municipal Representation and Counsel
- Planning and Zoning
- Real Estate Closings
- Real Estate (E&O)
- Trusts, Wills, and Estates

Joseph C. Svetanoff focuses his practice in the areas of municipal and local government—including utilities, land use, planning/zoning, general corporate services, real estate and commercial transactions, estate planning, including wills, trusts, and estates. He also has experience handling matters related to probate, employment law, as well as criminal law claims, 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 also served as a public defender and during that time, 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.

Memberships

- Indiana Municipal Lawyer's Association
- Indiana Public Defender Council

- Lake County Bar Association

Representative 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)
- 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)

Admissions

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

Education

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