

BERNARD J. FUHS

DIRECTOR

Detroit
313 225 7044
fuhs@butzel.com



Bernard (“Bernie”) Fuhs is renowned by clients and the legal community—in Michigan and across the US—as a go-to emergency litigator when a lawsuit is looming and the stakes are high. Mr. Fuhs is a nationally recognized “Bet-the-Company” litigator specializing in non-compete and trade secret matters and complex shareholder disputes. He has litigated matters or counseled clients in all 50 states. Mr. Fuhs is a Shareholder and Vice President of Butzel and serves on the firm’s Board of Directors.

Clients have come to trust Bernard (“Bernie”) Fuhs for his deep experience and substantial legal prowess developed over his nearly two decades in practice. Whether initiating or defending litigation, or providing legal advice on the best means to protect sensitive business information or strategically navigate a complex business dispute, his clients gain peace of mind by knowing that their interests are protected—always in the most efficient and cost-effective manner.

Bernard’s practice is focused on non-compete and trade secret matters, complex shareholder disputes, and franchise litigation. Entities such as start-ups and closely-held businesses, individuals such as sports and fitness industry professionals, and others, have all benefitted from his legal acumen and the enviable track record of success he has accumulated during his career.

Mr. Fuhs is a practice leader of the firm’s Trade Secret & Non-Compete Specialty Team. He has been recognized year-after-year by numerous highly-regarded industry publications for his knowledge in the areas of Business Litigation, Trade Secret, and Franchise Law.

Primary Practice Areas

Business & Commercial
Litigation
Franchise Specialty Team
Trade Secret & Non-Compete
Specialty Team

All Related Practice Areas

Business
Business & Commercial
Litigation
Cannabis Law Specialty Team
Franchise & Distribution
Franchise Specialty Team
Litigation and Dispute
Resolution
Mediation and Arbitration
Specialty Team
Minority Business Enterprise
Specialty Team
Non-Compete & Trade Secret
Trade Secret & Non-Compete
Specialty Team

BERNARD J. FUHS

Bernard is a graduate of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (*magna cum laude*) and the University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) (*summa cum laude*). While in law school he interned for Chief Justice Maura Corrigan of the Michigan Supreme Court. During his years at UDM he was a four-year player on the Division 1 Men's Basketball Team and while at UDM School of Law served as President of the 2nd Year Class, on Law Review, as a member of the Justice Frank Murphy Honor Society, and as a member of Beta Gamma Sigma and Beta Alpha Psi.

Credentials

EDUCATION

University of Detroit Mercy 2003, B.S. (*summa cum laude*)

University of Detroit Mercy School of Law 2006, J.D. (*magna cum laude*)

ADMISSIONS

Michigan

MEMBERSHIPS

State Bar of Michigan

American Bar Association - The Forum on Franchising

American Bar Association - ERR Non-Compete and Trade Secret Subcommittee

Leadership Oakland - Class XXIII

Macomb-OU INCubator Business Advisory Board

University of Detroit-Mercy Titan Club - Board of Directors

Sheriff Oakland County PAL Program - Board of Directors

University of Detroit-Mercy School of Law Alumni Association - Board of Directors

Detroit Athletic Club

St. Michael's the Archangel - Head Coach Girls' Varsity Basketball Program

NPASHF - Board of Directors

BERNARD J. FUHS

Awards & Recognitions

The Best Lawyers in America®: Commercial Litigation, 2025-2026

National Polish-American Sports Hall of Fame

America's Top 100 Best-of-the-Company Litigators (Michigan) 2022-2024 – Business Litigation, Trade Secret Litigation, and Business Litigation

Chambers USA, Commercial Litigation 2023-2025

Crain's Detroit Business 40 Under 40, Class of 2012

DBusiness Top Young Lawyers, 2013

DBusiness Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit, Business Litigation, 2012; Trade Secrets, 2014, 2016-2019, 2022-2023; Franchise Law, 2016-2019, 2022-2025

Michigan Super Lawyers, Rising Star in Business Litigation, 2011-2012

Michigan Super Lawyers, Business Litigation, 2013-2025

Oakland County Executive's Elite 40 under 40 – Class of 2013

University of Detroit Mercy (UDM) – Captain, UDM Division 1 Men's Basketball Team, 2002/2003

UDM – Wall Street Journal Award recipient for recognition as Top Student in the UDM College of Business Administration

UDM – Financial Executives International Award for most outstanding undergraduate student in Accounting and Finance

UDM – Beta Alpha Psi Award for highest scholastic average in an undergraduate program

UDM – All Horizon League Athletic Academic Team, 2002-2003

UDM – President's and Horizon League Honor Roll all four years

UDM – William Ebben Award for athletic and academic excellence

UDM and UDM School of Law – Dean's list all years attended

UDM School of Law – Cavanaugh Scholarship recipient