

# IN THE NEWS

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## Butzel Long attorney Beth S. Gotthelf named to *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* 'Leaders in the Law'

2.20.2019

DETROIT, Mich. – **Butzel Long attorney and shareholder Beth S. Gotthelf is one of 30 attorneys named to *Michigan Lawyers Weekly's* "Leaders in the Law" Class of 2019.** Honorees will be recognized at a luncheon and awards celebration on April 18, 2019, at the Detroit Marriott Troy. "Leaders in the Law" are honored, among other things, for:

- Significant accomplishments or achievements in law practice;
- Outstanding contributions to the practice of law in Michigan;
- Leadership in improving the justice system in Michigan;
- Seeking improvements to the legal community and their communities at large; and,
- Setting an example for other lawyers.

Gotthelf is Butzel Long's Director of Innovation and External Relations. She also is an Executive-in-Residence at the Macomb-OU INCubator and serves on the Macomb-OU INCubator Advisory Council.

She has helped auto suppliers diversify into alternative energy and defense, which have been lifelines to those companies.

Gotthelf served as a lay-leader on legislative trade missions to Israel to help Michigan legislators learn what has worked to make Israel an economic leader, and bring those 'lessons learned' back to Michigan. She is immediate past president and a current Board member of the Michigan Israel Business Accelerator (MIBA). With her connector skills, Gotthelf chaired a highly successful matchmaking initiative to bring Israel and Michigan automotive companies together during a high-tech automotive exchange mission by the Israel Consul for Economic Affairs and the Michigan Israel Business Bridge (now the MIBA).

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That mission resulted in over 100 matchmaking meetings.

She continued her passion of connecting companies to create business when she became president of MIBA by convincing Israel to have its *first ever* trade mission of Israeli Defense companies to a state (Michigan) in 2017. This mission was so successful that it led to the *first-ever* trade mission by a state (Michigan) of defense companies to Israel in December 2018. As a result, Michigan and Israel defense companies are reaping the benefit.

Gotthelf brings a pragmatic and holistic approach to clients' issues, assisting them in reaching their business goals, often matchmaking clients' needs and acting as an outside general counsel. Her assistance in diversifying automotive suppliers into the aerospace & defense arena during the economic downturn is just one example of her holistic approach. She now counsels clients in governmental contracting, ITAR, EAR, and Foreign Military Sales. Gotthelf also is a leader in environmental law, bringing creative solutions to remediation, redevelopment, tax incentives, and waste management.

She represents and counsels a diverse mix of clients in numerous matters throughout the country. These matters include: compliance and permitting; alternative energy issues; responding to an emergency; siting new facilities; civil and criminal enforcement; compliance audits; brownfields; tax incentives; remediation of contaminated sites; insurance claims; administrative procedures; solid and hazardous waste; landfills; composting; and occupational safety and health.

Gotthelf has served as general counsel to the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Surface Finishers since 1990; Better Business Bureau Board member (2012-present); former general counsel to the Wayne County Brownfield Authority. She has represented the Wayne County Department of Environment on a broad variety of issues, including the Detroit bankruptcy as it related to the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department; wastewater treatment plant expansion, upgrade and compliance; wet weather; landfills; remediation; and ordinance amendments. She also represented Oakland County on matters concerning stormwater and wastewater.

She has been very active in the Bar, including past service as: Vice Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, Water Quality and Wetlands; former Vice Chair of the Section's Keystone Committee; Chair of the State Bar of Michigan Environmental Law Section; and Chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association. She is a past member of the State Bar Representative Assembly on behalf of Oakland County.

In addition, Gotthelf is on the board of the Better Business Bureau. She is an active member of the Detroit Regional Chamber's Environmental Committee, past member of the Chambers Leadership Committee for Transportation, and is past Chair of the Chamber's Task Force on Water and Sewer Issues. She is Chair of the City of Birmingham (Michigan) Brownfield Authority (2005-present). On behalf of industry, she served on the Federal Advisory Committee charged with recommending stormwater rules and served as a Director of the Detroit Area Commercial Board of Realtors, which covers the State of Michigan. Gotthelf served as an arbitrator for the National Arbitration Forum.

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Gotthelf was selected as one of 20 influential leaders by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* – Women in Law (2010). She was listed as one of the "Top 100 *Michigan Super Lawyers*" by *Michigan Super Lawyers* (2006, 2007, 2008) and as one of the "Top 50 Female *Michigan Super Lawyers*" (2006, 2008, 2014 and 2015). She also is listed in *Michigan Super Lawyers*, Environmental (2006–2018). She has received a number of awards and special recognitions, including as an emerging leader by the Detroit Regional Chamber (2003); the National Association of Surface Finishers (2002); *Corp! Magazine* as one of "Michigan's 95 Most Powerful Women" (2002); *Corp! Magazine's* "Top 10 Business Attorneys for Southeast Michigan" (1999); and *Crain's Detroit Business'* 40 emerging leaders under age 40 (40 Under 40) (1994).

She has authored articles of national interest for the ABA on Proposed Wastewater Regulations and Underground Storage Tanks, and authored a public policy update on the Detroit wastewater ordinance amendments for Detroit. National lectures include National Brownfields Conference (2008); Walsh College "FIN or Else: FIN 47" Seminar; Urban Land Use Planning (2007); COATING 2005 on "Doing Business in China"; the ABA Annual Meetings, Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law concerning general practice (2007) and water issues (2004 and 2002); "A Civil Reaction: Confronting Environment Problems in the New Millennium" (1997); "Annual Fundamentals of Real Estate Taxation" (1997, 1998, 2000, 2001 and 2002); and at the National Association of Metal Finishers, "Federal Wastewater Pretreatment Issues."

Gotthelf's charitable activities include serving as Co-Chair of the Gleaners Food Bank Women's Power Breakfast fundraiser (2015); Board member and eventually President of the Board of Trustees for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter (1996–2008); Board member and eventually Chair of the Board of Trustees of Oakland Plus Foundation (2005–11); Trustee of the Jewish Vocational Services (2000–15); member of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit, State Government Relations Oversight Committee (2004–present); member of the Board of Directors for the University and Cancer Foundation (2000–07), to name a few.