

IN THE NEWS

Technology/ Environmental attorney Claudia Rast joins Butzel Long law firm

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ANN ARBOR, Mich. – Attorney **Claudia Rast** has joined **Butzel Long** as a shareholder in the firm's Ann Arbor office. Ms. Rast has extensive experience counseling both start-up and well-established clients on emerging legal issues related to business and technology, particularly online and web-based companies. She blends the study of law, business, and technology to assist companies in their choice and use of technology to maintain a competitive edge.

As a Board member for Ann Arbor's New Enterprise Forum, she coaches technology start-ups in their efforts to connect with management expertise, venture capital, and business partners.

Ms. Rast also is an experienced environmental lawyer, focusing on alternative energy and sustainability practices, including work on the development of a global Rule of Law Index for environment and energy with the World Justice Project, an offshoot of the American Bar Association. Locally, she is a Board Member of the Clean Energy Coalition (CEC), where she developed the legal framework for the DOE's \$15M grant to the CEC for the Michigan Green Fleets project and the Michigan Public Service Commission's \$4.5M grant for the Cities of Promise program.

In addition, Ms. Rast has substantial experience in other federal and state regulatory issues, including the removal of vast underground storage tank farms in the 1990's Superfund remediation and litigation Clean Water Act permitting and litigation Solid Waste permitting and compliance and SWAP grant permitting.

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Ms. Rast is a frequent speaker on matters ranging from Electronic Discovery, Online Advertising, Privacy, Identity Theft, Environmental Sustainability in the Law Office to Data Security Breaches for the Michigan Institute of Continuing Legal Education (ICLE). Most recently, she moderated a panel on “Hot Topics in Environmental Law” at the American Bar Association’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco.

Ms. Rast has published numerous articles focused on technology as well as the environment. Ms. Rast’s memberships include the American Bar Association’s Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources, where she has been involved in the leadership of the Section since 1999, including Chair of the Section in 2008–2009, Ann Arbor’s New Enterprise Forum, the Michigan League of Conservation Voters Board of Directors, ICLE’s Technology Training Advisory Board, and the Information Technology Council of the State Bar of Michigan.

In 2001, Ms. Rast was the only lawyer named as a Technology Industry Leader in *Crain’s Detroit Business*, and in 2003 the Ann Arbor Chapter of American Women in Computing named her as one of twenty “Top Michigan Women in Computing.”

Ms. Rast is a graduate of the University of Michigan (B.S., Natural Resources, 1975) and *cum laude* graduate of the University of Detroit School of Law (1986) where she served as Editor-in-Chief of the *University of Detroit Law Review* (1985–1986).

About Butzel Long

Established in 1854, Butzel Long is one of America’s leading law firms. With 170 attorneys, it has offices in Detroit, Bloomfield Hills, Lansing and Ann Arbor, Michigan, New York City, and Washington, D.C., as well as Alliance offices in Beijing, Shanghai, Mexico City and Monterrey. The firm is also a member of the Washington D.C. law firm, Butzel Long Tighe Patton. Butzel Long represents clients from diverse industries on regional, national, and multi-national levels and is a member of Lex Mundi, a global association of 160 independent law firms. Visit the Butzel Long website at www.butzel.com.

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