



James J. Murray

PARTNER

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Petoskey, MI 49770

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Practice Areas

Banking, Bankruptcy &
Creditors' Rights Law

Business Law

Commercial Litigation

Direct Representation of
Municipalities

Estate Administration

Estate Planning

Governmental Law

Liquor Licensing

Probate Litigation

Real Estate Law

Real Estate Litigation & Title
Insurance Law

Trusts & Estates

Zoning & Land Use

Education

- Detroit College of Law,
Magna Cum Laude, J.D.,
1987
 - Detroit College of
Law Review,
1985-1986
 - Dewitt C. Holbrook
Scholar, 1985-1986
- Michigan State
University, B.A., 1982

James J. Murray represents private- and public-sector clients in a variety of transactional and litigation areas of practice.

He is a member of the firm's Real Estate/Transaction, Governmental Law and Banking, Bankruptcy and Creditors' Rights practice groups. With nearly 40 years of experience, Mr. Murray concentrates his practice in the areas of business law, real estate, municipal law, and commercial and title insurance litigation.

Mr. Murray currently serves as city attorney for the City of Petoskey, as well as for Bay Township. He has also represented numerous other municipalities in the defense of zoning and land use disputes. In addition, he a past member of the Board of Directors for both the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) and for the Michigan Legal Defense Fund. He also has the distinction of serving as Chair of the Mackinac Island Community Foundation.

Representative Client Work

- Corporate counsel to manufacturing business with over \$80 million in sales per year and plants located in Michigan, Tennessee, Indiana and Texas
- Corporate counsel to ferry boat passenger service and other businesses located on Mackinac Island
- Involved in franchise issues and proceedings before the Michigan Public Services Commission
- Represents numerous banks and title companies
- Serves as City Attorney to the City of Petoskey, providing legal services to all departments, prosecuting civil infractions, including

JAMES J. MURRAY Cont.

Admissions

Michigan, 1987

zoning violations, and providing opinions on all legal affairs

- Trial attorney who successfully defended the City of Manistee against environmental liability in the landmark case of *Nemeth v Abonmarche Development, Inc.*, 456 Mich 851; 568 NW2d 89 (1997)
- *Pro bono* legal services to many nonprofit organizations throughout the state of Michigan

Municipal Experience

- Bay Township, Township Attorney
- Boyne City, Former City Attorney
- City of Petoskey, Former City Attorney
- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (Board of Directors, Former Member)
- Michigan Municipal League Legal Defense Fund (Board of Directors, Former Member)

Professional Affiliations

- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan (Grievance Panel)
- Emmet-Charlevoix County Bar Association (Past President, 1996-1997)

Community Involvement

- Les Cheneaux Community Foundation (Member, Board of Directors)
- Mackinac Island Community Foundation (Board of Trustees, Chair, 2019 - present; Treasurer, 2016 - 2019)

Honors & Recognitions

- "Go To Lawyer for Business Transactions," Michigan Lawyers Weekly, 2024