bodman

Sarah J. Gabis

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Sarah J. Gabis has nearly 20 years of experience helping public entities address a wide variety of municipal issues.

Her expertise encompasses virtually all of her municipal clients' legal concerns. She advises township boards, city councils, brownfield authorities, downtown development authorities, planning commissions, and similar government entities on all matters relating to municipal governance. She also advises municipal clients on matters involving zoning and blight enforcement, development agreements, police departments, sewer and water infrastructure, public-private partnerships, mobile home park development and regulation, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) questions, Open Meetings Act matters, intergovernmental agreements, annexation, and Act 425 matters.

She has also represented many municipalities with municipal prosecutions and served as a state prosecutor for DuPage County, Illinois. As state prosecutor, she represented dozens of municipalities with prosecution matters and served as a member of the Law Department for the City of Chicago.

As a law student, Sarah earned a national championship as a Corboy Mock Trial fellow and participated in the American Bar Association Moot Court competition.

She is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Eastern Districts of Michigan.

practices & industries

Municipal Law and Government Relations

Business

education

Loyola University Chicago School of Law, J.D. *cum laude*

Michigan State University, B.S., M.S.W.

admissions

Kentucky

Michigan

court admissions

U.S. District Ct., E.D. Mich.

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HONORS, AWARDS, AND RECOGNITION

- *DBusiness* Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2025, 2027, Municipal Law

CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Ridgedale Players Community Theater, Board of Directors

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Administrative & Regulatory Law Section
  - Criminal Law Section
  - Government Law Section
- Kentucky Bar Association
- Oakland County Bar Association

PUBLICATIONS

- Author, "Michigan Supreme Court Holds that a Tax Cannot be Disguised as a Franchise Fee in Violation of Headlee," Bodman Municipal Law Update (February 4, 2025)
- Co-author, "Michigan Court of Appeals Provides Clarification Related to a Municipality's Grant or Denial of Special Land Use Permit Applications," Bodman Municipal Law Update (November 21, 2024)
- "Court of Appeals Rules that Voter-Initiated Charter Amendments Cannot Be Used to Implement Local Regulations Under the MRTMA," Bodman Municipal Law Update (September 6, 2024)
- *Social Districts Fact Sheet*, Michigan Municipal League (2021)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- "Is a Social District Right for Your Township?" Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference (2022)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Former Adjunct Professor of NITA Trial Skills, Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School

PRO BONO

- State Bar of Michigan 2026 A Lawyer Helps Pro Bono Honor Roll