bodman

Erica J. Sarver



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Erica Sarver specializes in navigating the space between litigation and economic development, with a focus on environmental challenges that clients face throughout the course of real estate transactions. This interdisciplinary approach affords clients both continuity and cost savings in the event of litigation. She counsels clients on issues including permitting, regulatory compliance, environmental risk and incentive programs, and the real property tax exemption process.

Mrs. Sarver has served as lead trial counsel in a variety of state and federal courts, as well as Michigan's Tax Tribunal. She has served as lead trial counsel on tax appeals and real estate and construction litigation, and has played a key role in high-stakes commercial litigation. She has successfully represented clients nationwide in both court and arbitration proceedings, in a wide range of industries, including automotive, finance, ERISA, insurance, construction, and manufacturing.

Mrs. Sarver has represented municipal clients in matters ranging from misdemeanor criminal cases to large-scale basement flooding class actions. She previously served for five years as the Assistant City Attorney for the City of Grosse Pointe Park, Michigan. She has served as interim township attorney for Macomb Township, and assists with prosecution and litigation matters for Dexter Township and Ann Arbor Township.

In law school, Mrs. Sarver interned for the Honorable Nancy G. Edmunds of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, and served as managing editor of *The Journal of Law in Society*. She was a member of a team that won the 2015 David Sive Award for Best Brief Overall at the Jeffrey G. Miller Pace National Environmental Law Competition. She was a brief writer and oralist on Wayne State's ABA National Moot Court team, and placed in the top ten oralists in the Midwest Region. She served as a judge of the 2022-2023 Wayne Law National Environmental Moot Court Team, which made it to the final round.

In her free time, Mrs. Sarver is an amateur marathon runner with a personal best of 2:48.

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practices & industries

Litigation and Alternative Dispute Resolution

Environmental Law

Municipal Law and Government Relations

Construction

education

Wayne State University Law School, J.D., *summa cum laude*, Order of the Coif

University of Detroit Mercy, M.A.

Vanderbilt University, B.A., *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa

admissions

Michigan

court admissions

U.S. Ct. of Appeals, 6th Cir.

U.S. Ct. of Appeals, 11th Cir.

U.S. Bankruptcy Ct. E.D. Mich.

U.S. District Ct., S.D. Ind.

HONORS, AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2027, Commercial Litigation
- *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch® in America* 2022-2026, Commercial Litigation, Environmental Law
- *Benchmark Litigation 2025*, "40 & Under Hot List"
- *DBusiness* Magazine "Top Lawyers" 2021-2027, Environmental Law
- *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, "Up and Coming Lawyers" 2024
- *Michigan Rising Star 2023-2025*, Business Litigation
- Detroit Bar Association Pro Bono Award, 2025
- Detroit Bar Association Barristers "Barrister of the Year" (2019)

CIVIC, CULTURAL, AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- VIP Mentoring, Volunteer Mentor
- Matrix Human Services, Angel Tree Committee Member
- Loyola High School, Young Donor Committee Member
- Volunteer Coach, Wayne State University Moot Court Team - National Energy & Sustainability Moot Court Competition

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- State Bar of Michigan
  - Environmental Law Section Council (Chair, 2026-present; Member, 2022-2026; Secretary/Treasurer, 2024-2025)
- Detroit Bar Association
- Detroit Bar Association Barristers Board of Directors (2018-2021)
  - Board President (2020-21)
  - Board Vice President (2019-20)
  - Education Committee Co-Chair (2018-19)
- Federal Bar Association-Eastern District of Michigan Chapter
- Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce
  - Energy & Environment Committee Member

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author (with Nathan Dupes) "New USEPA Rules Under the Toxic Substances Control Act Ban Many Uses of TCE and PCE," Bodman Update (December 11, 2024)
- Co-Author (with Nathan Dupes) "Court of Appeals Decision Reaffirms That Property Owned by Religious Societies Must Be Predominately Used for Religious Purposes to Qualify for Tax Exemption," Bodman Update (October 7, 2024)
- "EPA Submits Final Rules Identifying PFAS as Hazardous Substances," Bodman Environmental Law Update (April 23, 2024)

- Co-Author (with Nathan Dupes) “Survey of Michigan Environmental Cases for the Period May 2021 through June 2022,” Wayne Law Review (Vol. 68, No. 3, Spring 2023)
- "The Final Auer: How Weakening the Deference Doctrine May Impact Environmental Law," 45 *ELR* 10954, October 2015
- "Petcoke: How an Outdated and Inconsistent Regulatory Framework Defeats Environmental Justice in Detroit," *Michigan Environmental Law Journal* (Vol. 33, No. 3, Spring-Summer 2015)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- “Charitable Organizations & Property Taxes,” Leading Age Michigan Finance & Strategy Day, March 13, 2024

PRO BONO

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