

17th Annual MAMA/PCLS Summer Education Conference
June 19-21, 2015
The Inn at Harbor Shores, St. Joseph, MI

SPEAKERS BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Gerald Fisher. WMU-Cooley Professor Gerald Fisher teaches Constitutional Law, Property, Secured Transactions, Zoning and Land Use Law, and State and Local Government Law. Professor Fisher has appeared on 21 occasions in cases presented to the Michigan Supreme Court (appearing as principal counsel for parties in nine cases, and in 12 cases preparing *amicus curiae* briefs on behalf of the Michigan Municipal League, Michigan Townships Association, State Bar of Michigan Public Corporation Law Section, or the American Planning Association). The subject matter of these cases has included zoning, inland lake regulation, wetland regulation, sign and billboard regulation, federal civil rights applicable to land use regulation, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, eminent domain, inverse condemnation, the process of initiating amendments to the State Constitution, Tort Liability Act applied to local government sidewalk maintenance, Michigan Medical Marihuana Act interpretation, and disputes on the allocation of authority between the state and local governments.

Before joining Cooley Law School, Professor Fisher was a Senior Partner and Manager of the Municipal Practice Group at Secrest Wardle, a firm with offices in Farmington Hills, Mt. Clemens, Lansing and Grand Rapids. He served as general counsel for cities, villages and townships in Southeast Michigan and as special counsel for governmental entities throughout Michigan. In addition, he served as counsel on behalf of property owners regarding land use matters.

He was the recipient of the Roberts P. Hudson Award from the State Bar of Michigan in 1978, named a Best Lawyer in America in 2007, Recipient of the Cooley Law Review Michigan Supreme Court Distinguished Brief Award in 2001, and named a Lawyer of the Year in Michigan (one of ten) in 2001 by Michigan Lawyers Weekly. Professor Fisher serves as a member and past chairperson of the State Bar Public Corporation Law Section, is a member of the Michigan Municipal League Professionalism and Education Committee, is a member and past president of the Oakland County Bar Foundation, was a founder of the Oakland County Bar Association Municipal Law Committee, and is active in the Michigan Supreme Court Historical Society. He is a Fellow of the State Bar of Michigan and a Life Fellow of the Oakland County Bar Foundation.

Stephen Estey. Stephen R. Estey's practice at Dykema Gossett comprehends multiple disciplines within the commercial and real estate arenas. He handles a wide range of matters before both state and federal courts as well as administrative and municipal tribunals involving both business and real estate related disputes. Mr. Estey represents energy industry clients including telecommunication carriers and large utilities involved in the transmission of electricity throughout the Midwest. His experience with companies in the public utility, energy, transmission and telecommunication industries spans over a decade. He routinely serves as lead counsel in assisting clients in planning and siting new transmission infrastructure development and frequently represents their interest in related commercial litigation, easement acquisition, eminent domain proceedings and contract negotiations. Mr. Estey also advises clients in all aspects of commercial real estate transactions, including acquisition, disposition and development as well as commercial foreclosures and workouts. He has extensive experience in expediting land use entitlements, and resolving a wide variety of disputes related to zoning, planned unit developments, special land uses, condemnation/takings, easements, boundary and title issues, construction, contracts, and various regulatory and administrative challenges, among others.

Mr. Estey currently serves as the Chair for the State Bar of Michigan, Real Property Section Zoning and Land Use Committee. He has previously been appointed and served on both the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals for the City of Plymouth. He is a recipient of a Bronze Key Certificate from Wayne State University and has been recognized in *Michigan Super Lawyers*® for Land Use/Zoning, Eminent Domain and General, 2013-2014.

Amanda Van Dusen. Ms. Van Dusen is a Principal and Public Finance Group Co-Leader at Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone P.L.C. She has an extensive background in all aspects of public-sector finance representing several public law clients, including schools (K-12 and higher), airports, counties and solid waste management authorities. In addition to serving as bond counsel in financing transactions, she focuses on such areas as elections, campaign finance compliance, state and federal tax issues, and general finance (budgets, revenue sources and cash flow).

Miller Canfield serves as local counsel to the City of Detroit in connection with its Chapter 9 bankruptcy case filed in July 2013 and its ongoing restructuring efforts. In connection with this representation, Miller Canfield currently is (a) handling post-petition financing matters, (b) litigating and negotiating requests for relief from the automatic stay matter, and (c) assisting with the restructuring of various City departments. The City of Detroit has estimated that its total outstanding obligations as of the commencement of its bankruptcy case totaled approximately \$18.5 billion.

A graduate of Williams College and the University of Michigan Law School, Ms. Van Dusen has received numerous honors during her career including Corp! Magazine One of Michigan's Top Businesswomen 2004, Crain's Detroit Business, One of the Detroit area's "100 Most Influential Women" 2002; Who's Who in Detroit Business-Law 2005, Best Lawyers in America, Banking and Finance Law, Education Law, and Public Finance Law 2003-present; 2012 Detroit Education Lawyer of the Year; 2015 Detroit Public Finance Lawyer of the Year, *Michigan Super Lawyers*, Top 50 Women Michigan 2007; Bonds/Government Finance 2006-present, Inform Woman of Influence 2008, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, 2010 Leaders in the Law, and *DBusiness Magazine*, Top Lawyers, Banking and Public Finance Law 2011-present. She is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a Fellow of American College of Bond Counsels and State Bar of Michigan, Past Member, Committee on Professional and Judicial Ethics, Chairperson, 1986-88.

Steven Howell A Member and Practice Department Manager: Banking & Finance, Creditors' Rights and Municipal Finance at Dickinson Wright PLLC, Mr. Howell has been practicing for 35 years as a bankruptcy and insolvency lawyer providing a broad range of services in the distressed business context. A significant part of his practice is spent counseling lenders in troubled loan matters throughout the workout process, including exit strategies, refinancings, restructures, sales, out-of-court and court proceedings, bankruptcy and liquidation. Mr. Howell has been involved in Chapter 9, Chapter 11, Chapter 15 and Companies' Creditors Arrangement Act cases in Canada (CCAA). In addition, he is currently serving as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Michigan as lead bankruptcy counsel on behalf of the State of Michigan in the Chapter 9 bankruptcy case filed by the City of Detroit. Steve has also represented borrowers, creditors' committees, creditors and purchasers of financially distressed companies.

A graduate of the University of Michigan and Wayne State University Law School, Mr. Howell is a member of the Federal Bar Association's Eastern District of Michigan Chapter, the State Bar of Michigan, the American Bankruptcy Institute, and the Turnaround Management Association. He is admitted to practice in the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the

Supreme Court of the United States. Steve received the Barbara J. Rom Excellence in Bankruptcy Award in November 2014 from the Federal Bar Association for the Eastern District of Michigan. He is recognized as a leader in his field by *Best Lawyers in America*, including being named 2014 Detroit Bankruptcy and Creditor Debtor Rights/Insolvency and Reorganization Lawyer of the Year; *Chambers USA*, including recognition as a Band 1 Leading Individual in Michigan in the bankruptcy field; *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* 2015 Leader in the Law; *Michigan Super Lawyers*; and *Dbusiness Top Lawyers*.