

Stowers elected to municipal attorney, legal defense fund boards

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Rhonda R. Stowers, a senior attorney in the Flint, Michigan office of Plunkett Cooney, one of the Midwest's oldest and largest law firms, was recently elected to the Board of Directors of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) and to the Board of the Michigan Municipal League Legal Defense Fund (LDF).

"I'm honored to be a member of the MAMA and LDF boards," said Stowers, who has nearly 20 years of experience representing Michigan municipalities. "It's a privilege to work alongside colleagues on these boards, and I look forward to helping advance the initiatives of both organizations."

Established in 1935 and now affiliated with the Michigan Municipal League (MML), MAMA is a specialized organization that provides a variety of services for municipal attorneys practicing in Michigan. MAMA provides educational programs and information sharing that is designed for attorneys in public and private practice who counsel Michigan's local communities.

The Legal Defense Fund (the LDF) was established in 1983 to provide support to communities in Michigan involved in significant litigation or other forms of controversy that could affect the organization, operation, powers, duties or financing of Michigan municipalities. The fund is designed to assist, and not replace the municipal attorney, and it offers assistance at the discretion of its board of directors.

As a MAMA board member, Stowers will work with her colleagues to advance the organization's goals, which include strengthening the quality of legal representation of municipal corporations through continuing education, serving as a research organization for corporate counsel representing MML cities and villages, creating a forum for consultation among members, and honoring individuals who have made significant contributions in the area of municipal law.

A 2001 University of Michigan Law School graduate, Stowers focuses her practice in the areas of governmental law, general litigation and title insurance law. She advises municipalities on a range of issues, including the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, federal and state constitutions, civil rights, zoning, charter amendments, ordinance drafting, and employment-related

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issues.

Members of Plunkett Cooney's Governmental Law Practice Group have handled virtually every issue that can be brought against municipalities and municipal officials at the trial court level. Plunkett Cooney attorneys have also been successful in obtaining the dismissal of hundreds of cases without the necessity of a trial. The firm is considered to be among the most experienced in the state of Michigan in defending municipalities.

Established in 1913, Plunkett Cooney is a leading provider of business and litigation services to clients in the private and public sectors. The firm employs approximately 150 attorneys in seven Michigan cities, Chicago, Illinois; Columbus, Ohio; and Indianapolis, Indiana. Plunkett Cooney has achieved the highest rating (AV) awarded by Martindale-Hubbell, a leading, international directory of law firms.

For more information about Rhonda Stowers' election to the MAMA and LDF boards, contact the firm's Director of Marketing and Business Development John Cornwell at (248) 901-4008; jcornwell@plunkettcooney.com.

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