

PROPOSAL

**IN RESPONSE TO
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CITY ATTORNEY– LEGAL SERVICES
ISSUED BY THE
CITY OF RICHLAND CENTER**

Prepared by:

MURPHY DESMOND S.C.

**33 East Main Street, Suite 500
Madison, WI 53703
Ph: (608) 257-7181**

and

**101 East Milwaukee Street, Suite 301
Janesville, WI 53545
Ph: (608) 314-3800**

and

**15 Park Place, Suite 300
Appleton, WI 54914
Ph: (920) 882-7630**

and

**126 North Iowa Street
Dodgeville, WI 53533
Ph: (608) 937-0467**

August 26, 2026



I. EXPERIENCE AND FIRM QUALIFICATIONS

We are pleased to present this proposal to the City of Richland Center to provide for its general legal services. Murphy Desmond was founded in 1931, and is proud of its long-standing tradition, professional service and innovation. With over thirty practicing and emeritus attorneys supported by an experienced staff of legal professionals, Murphy Desmond is a full-service law firm that provides clients with high-quality legal services and advice. Murphy Desmond provides timely and innovative solutions in the areas of municipal law, business law, collections, real estate law, immigration law, construction law, labor and employment law, litigation, bankruptcy law, as well as other practice areas. Because of the breadth and depth of our experience, we believe that we are uniquely qualified to provide the legal services that the City requires.

The core of the municipal law group, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Fleming, Mr. Braithwaite, Mr. Windle and Ms. Jens, have combined, over 80 years of experience providing legal representation to local units of government, throughout the State, as both general counsel as well as for litigation or other special projects. During their careers, they have dealt extensively with all areas of local governmental law. More specific details can be found below in our discussion of each attorney and in their accompanying bios. In addition to their long history and depth of experience in all areas of municipal law, our municipal law team also includes Attorney Matthew J. Frank, former Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and Assistant Attorney General who provides substantial expertise in the areas of environmental and state administrative and regulatory law, and Attorney Michael S. Windle, who currently serves as the City Attorney for Richland Center.

Our experience is varied, and our range of our local governmental clients runs from being the primary counsel for the City of Middleton, a growing, urbanized community on the west side of Madison, to the Town of Brigham, a rural town in Iowa County, on the other. This breadth of

experience will allow Murphy Desmond to readily perform all aspects of the Scope of Services to be Provided listed in the City's RFP.

As a further illustration of our base of knowledge and experience, below is a list of cases in which Murphy Desmond attorneys have represented either local governments or private parties on local governmental matters in published Court of Appeals and Supreme Court cases. This list does not include the numerous unpublished Court of Appeals opinions which do not create binding legal precedent, or ongoing appeals in which our attorneys are involved.

Wisconsin Court of Appeals Cases

Bloomer Hous. Ltd. P'ship v. City of Bloomer, 2002 WI App. 252, 257 Wis. 2d 883, 653 N.W.2d 309;

KW Holdings, L.L.C. v. City of Windsor, 2003 WI App. 9, 258 Wis. 2d 357, 656 N.W.2d 752 (subdivision/annexation);

Town of Windsor v. City of DeForest, 2003 WI App. 114, 265 Wis. 2d 591, 666 N.W.2d 31 (annexation);

Mineral Point Valley Ltd. P'ship v. City of Mineral Point Bd. of Review, 2004 WI App. 158, 275 Wis. 2d 784, 686 N.W.2d 697;

D.S.G. Evergreen F.L.P. v. Town of Perry, 2007 WI App. 115, 300 Wis. 2d 590, 731 N.W.2d 667;

State ex. rel Herro v. City of McFarland, 2007 WI App. 172, 737 N.W.2d 55 (open meetings law);

State ex rel. Gehl v. Connors, 2007 WI App. 238, 306 Wis. 2d 247, 742 N.W.2d 530 (Mandamus action seeking production of public records);

State ex. rel Kuehne v. Burdette, 2009 WI App. 119, 320 Wis. 2d 784, 772 N.W.2d 225 (constitutionality of incorporation process);

Bonstores Realty One, LLC v. City of Wauwatosa, 2013 WI App. 131, 351 Wis. 2d 439, 839 N.W.2d 893 (Property tax assessment challenge on mall department store property);

Wisconsin Supreme Court Cases

Wis. Dolls, LLC v. Town of Dell Prairie, 2012 WI 76, 342 Wis. 2d 350, 815 N.W.2d 690 (Challenge against the imposition of significant new restrictions on alcohol license without proper procedure);

McKee Family I, LLC v. City of Fitchburg, 2017 WI 34, 374 Wis. 2d 487, 893 N.W.2d 12 (Property owner challenge of rezoning based on vested rights);

DSG Evergreen Family Ltd. P'ship v. Town of Perry, 2020 WI 23, 390 Wis. 2d 533, 939 N.W.2d 564. (Regarding Town obligations to complete a project for which eminent domain was exercised.)

Existing Municipal Clients and References

The following is a list of current municipal clients of Murphy Desmond. For reference purposes, Mr. Morgan's closest recent working relationships are with the City of Edgerton, the Villages of New Glarus and Monticello, the Towns of Lodi, Fulton and Albion. Mr. Fleming's closest recent working relationships are with the City of Middleton, Town of Vienna, Town of Dekorra and the Town of Dunn and he is currently handling litigation and other special matters for the City of Eau Claire and City of Oshkosh. Mr. Braithwaite's closest working relationship is with the City of Eau Claire, where he handles various property tax litigation matters. Ms. Jens' closest working relationships are with the City of Edgerton, City of Middleton and the City of New Glarus. You are free to contact any of the contacts for a reference.

City of Middleton

Bryan Gadow, City Administrator
7426 Hubbard Avenue
Middleton, WI 53562
(608) 821-8358
bgadow@cityofmiddleton.us

City of Eau Claire

City Attorney Stephen C. Nick
203 S. Farwell Street
Eau Claire, WI 54702-5148
(715) 839-6006
Stephen.Nick@eauclairewi.gov

City of New Glarus

(General Services/Prosecutions)

Kelsey Jenson, Administrator
319 Second Street
New Glarus, WI 53574
(608) 527-5971
administrator@newglarusvillage.com

Town of Brigham

Kirstin K. Melton, Town Clerk
407 East Highway ID
Barneveld, WI 53507
(608) 924-1013
office@tn.brigham.wi.gov

Town of Dunn (Prosecutions)

Andrea Zacharias, Professional Judicial Assistant
4156 County Road B
McFarland, WI 53558
(608) 838-1081 x 201
azacharias@townofdunnwi.gov

City of Edgerton**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Ramona Flanigan, City Administrator
12 Albion Street
Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 844-3341
rflanigan@edgerton.wi.gov

Town of Oregon (General Services)

Jennifer Hanson, Clerk
1138 Union Road
Oregon, WI 53575
(608) 835-3200
jhanson@townoforegonwi.gov

Town of Fulton (Prosecutions)

Chief Tom Kunkle
2738 W Fulton Center Drive
Edgerton, WI 53534
(608) 868-4103
townoffulton.wi.gov

City of Oshkosh**(Eminent Domain and Real Estate Matters)**

Amy Vanden Hogen, City Attorney
215 Church Avenue
Oshkosh, WI 54903
(920) 236-5115
avandenhogen@oshkoshwi.gov

Town of Lodi**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Shellie Benish, Administrator
W10919 County Road V
Lodi, WI 53555
(608) 592-4868
townoflodi@tn.lodi.wi.gov

Town of Dekorra (General Services)

Holly Priske, Town Clerk
W8225 CTY JV
PO Box 536
Poynette, WI 53955
(608) 635-2014
townclerk@dekorra-wi.gov

Village of Monticello**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Aaron Bittner, City President
140 North Main Street
Monticello, WI 53570
(608) 938-4383
a.bittner@monticellowi.gov

Town of Albion**(General Services/Prosecutions)**

Julie Hanewall, Clerk/Treasurer
620 Albion Road
Edgerton, WI 53534
608-884-8974
jhanewall@townofalbion.net

Town of Vienna**(General Services)**

Kathleen Clark, Town Clerk
7161 County Highway I
DeForest, WI 53532
(608) 846-3800
clerk@viennawi.gov

List of Murphy Desmond Attorneys and Shareholders

The following is a list of all of Murphy Desmond's attorneys, as well as principals. We are happy to provide specific biographies for each attorney upon request. (Shareholders are shown in bold *italics*.)

Peter A. Bazianos
Alex J. Becker
Ryan G. Braithwaite
Julianne M. Brock
Jonathan P. Bruni
Gretchen J. Burgess
Axel Candelaria Rivera
Sarah H. DeKraay
Matthew J. Fleming
Matthew J. Frank
Liam F. Gilhooly
Dave M. Gorwitz
Gayle B. Jebbia
Katherine A. Jens
Vernon J. Jesse
Katie E. Kelly
Daniel J. Lipman

Glorily A. Lopez
Thais S. Marques
Daniel J. McGarry
Mario D. Mendoza
Stephen L. Morgan
William E. Morgan
Jason J. Reed
Lane Rideout
Scott G. Salemi
Walter R. Stewart
Emma K. Stippich
Lydia N. Thompson
Harvey L. Wendel
Ruth Westmont
Michael S. Windle
Jane F. (Ginger) Zimmerman

II. ATTORNEYS PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR SERVICES

We propose that Michael S. Windle be the primary service provider to the City for the legal services. Other members from the rest of our municipal team are available as needed. The members of our municipal team have decades of experience in municipal work and are each eminently qualified to provide the services that the City requires. Mr. Morgan and Mr. Fleming each have extensive experience in all facets of the municipal work outlined in the City's request for qualifications and beyond, and Mr. Windle is familiar with the City's specific legal needs. Below is a brief description of each attorney's background. Further information is included in the firm biographies included with this proposal.

William E. Morgan

Mr. Morgan is a shareholder at Murphy Desmond, joining Murphy Desmond in 2009 after serving as the Green County Corporation Counsel for 11 years, and as assistant corporation counsel for Barron County before that. He is currently the City Attorney and prosecutor for the City of Edgerton, as well as being the City Attorney and prosecutor for both the City of New Glarus and the City of Monticello and the prosecutor for the Towns of Albion, Fulton and Lodi. In addition to his work as a prosecutor, Mr. Morgan focuses his practice on employment, open meetings and public records law, municipal litigation and human resources. He also provides as needed municipal legal services for a number of other communities as well as providing services to Murphy Desmond's other general clients as needed, particularly on employment-related matters. Finally, Mr. Morgan serves as the Firm's chief ethics officer and has previously served on the District 12 Board of Professional Responsibilities for the State Bar.

Matthew J. Fleming

Mr. Fleming is a shareholder at Murphy Desmond and has been with the firm for over 25 years. His practice is focused on municipal law and related areas including land use regulation, economic development, construction and other contracts, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments, eminent domain, general litigation and municipal court prosecution. He has been practicing local government law for over 27 years beginning with his employment as Assistant City Attorney for the City of La Crosse in 1999. Mr. Fleming is the City Attorney for the City of Middleton and Town Attorney for the Towns of Brigham and Dekorra. He has experience in all areas of municipal law, including tax incremental financing agreements, and is handling special matters for the City of Eau Claire and City of Oshkosh.

Ryan G. Braithwaite

Mr. Braithwaite's legal practice focuses on municipal law, municipal litigation, and general litigation in Wisconsin. He has over 20 years of experience representing municipalities in contract disputes, defense of high-end property tax appeals, eminent domain, handling special assessments, land use, zoning regulations, drafting municipal ordinances and contracts, and open meetings/records.

Additionally, Mr. Braithwaite has significant litigation experience in matters such as commercial disputes, contract disputes, product liability, insurance defense, trademark and copyright, federal and appellate litigation, and personal injury cases, and has argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the 7th Circuit.

Katherine A. Jens

Ms. Katherine (Katie) Jens, a graduate of Florida State University College of Law, comes to Murphy Desmond with an interest in planning and zoning, as well as environmental law. Her attention to detail, research, and drafting capabilities have already proven to be instrumental to a number of our firm's municipal clients and we expect that she will continue to be a valuable member of the municipal team in the years to come. She is currently providing back-up prosecutorial services for the City of Edgerton and the Towns of Fulton and Albion on as needed basis.

Support and Backup

Murphy Desmond is a full-service law firm and has ample support from a dedicated team of legal assistants, paralegals, and IT personnel. As such, there will always be someone available to provide any service the City requires.

As far as attorney services are concerned, in the event Mr. Windle is unavailable, as illustrated above, any of our municipal team would be available and each are eminently qualified

to provide day-to-day assistance. While each has in-depth experience in all areas of municipal law, different firm attorneys have different strengths and will be relied upon from time to time to ensure the City continues to receive the best representation available for the issue at hand.

III. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND CLAIMS EXPERIENCE

We have reviewed our existing clients list, and we are unaware of any current conflicts of interest, nor are we aware of any situations that appear to present any imminent potential for a conflict of interest. We are however a relatively large firm and conflicts do occasionally arise. We run conflict checks whenever new files are opened or whenever it appears we may be required to take an adverse position to anyone dealing with an existing client. We are bound by the rules of professional responsibility in all instances, and those rules will sometimes require complete withdrawal from representation of any party. Whenever our firm is permitted to represent one party or another in a conflict situation, we follow the rule that the first client in the door is the client we will represent. Accordingly, once we begin representing the City, circumstances where we would be unable to represent the City would be extremely rare. Any other client coming to the firm to deal with a matter that is adverse to the City will be required to seek other counsel. As part of our service to our clients, we do not bill for checking conflicts of interest.

As for our claims' experience, we are proud to report that none of our current attorneys have received any public or private reprimands from the Office of Lawyer Regulation. As for malpractice claims, like most firms there have been claims filed at times over the years, but there have not been any claims paid regarding any attorney currently affiliated with Murphy Desmond and no claims involving anyone in the municipal law group.

IV. PROPOSED BILLING ARRANGEMENT AND SCOPE OF SERVICES

Murphy Desmond is willing to honor the current contract rate of \$175 per hour through the term of the current contract. At the conclusion of the current contract on September 5, 2026,

Murphy Desmond would charge at a rate of \$225 per hour. Once we have a better sense of the volume of work, we would be willing to consider a retainer agreement for all or a portion of the work as deemed appropriate.

As we are a full-service firm, if there are services which the City needs which are beyond what would ordinarily be expected for a municipal client, we would enter into a separate agreement as to those services which would then be billed in accordance with that agreement. Currently paralegals are infrequently relied upon in our municipal practice, but in the event they are used for any project, their work will be billed at a rate not to exceed \$150.

Murphy Desmond will provide a detailed monthly invoice for all services rendered. For the purposes of billing, the Firm uses increments of a tenth of an hour and invoices are issued monthly.

In the event that another of the Firm's shareholders' expertise is required, Murphy Desmond will seek the City's prior consent for the shareholder to perform work under this Agreement at the shareholder's normal rate, which may be higher than the \$225 per hour rate above. We do not ordinarily bill for services of legal assistants, nor for office copying costs. Subpoena, witness and service fees, court transcripts, outside copying costs and other necessary out of pocket expenses, including mileage at the then-current IRS rate will be billed as incurred.



MICHAEL WINDLE

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Guardianships (Adult)
Litigation
Municipal Law
Real Estate, Land Use &
Construction

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin
Wisconsin Court of Appeals
District Court in the Western
District of Wisconsin

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law
School, Madison, Wisconsin,
2019, J.D.
University of
Wisconsin-Madison,
2015, B.A. Political Science and
Legal Studies
Delaware Technical and
Community College,
Stanton/Wilmington, Delaware,
2013, Criminal Justice,
Associate's Degree

 mwindle@murphydesmond.com  (608) 257-2508

Attorney Mike Windle is a litigator and transactional attorney who represents municipalities and counties, business and individual clients, and families on a wide range of matters.

His local government practice includes advising counties and municipalities in land use regulation and zoning, guardianships and involuntary mental commitments, open meetings and public records law, local finance, and general legal matters.

Whether a local government or private client, Mike represents his clients in court when disputes cannot be settled without litigation. He works closely with clients on legal analysis, meeting court deadlines, case management, and presenting complex matters in a manner which can be understood.

Mike is based in Murphy Desmond's Madison office but is available to meet with clients in the firm's Janesville and Dodgeville offices as well.

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- State Bar of Wisconsin

FUN FACT

Mike is an avid gamer and annually attends the World Boardgaming Championships in Pennsylvania.



WILLIAM E. MORGAN

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Business Law
Employment & Labor Law
Litigation
Municipal Law
Eminent Domain
Business Startup/ Entrepreneur
Legal Services
Guardianships (Adult)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 1992
U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin, 1992

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin,
1992, J.D.
University of Wisconsin,
Stevens Point,
1989, B.A.

✉ wmorgan@murphydesmond.com 📞 (608) 268-5576 📠 (608) 257-2508

Attorney Bill Morgan represents both public and private employers with a focus on employment and personnel-related matters, including discrimination claims, administrative issues, sexual harassment, and all matters affecting human resources departments such as health care, employee benefits, and employment contracts.

Bill's municipal law practice emphasizes open meeting and open record matters, drafting and enforcement of zoning and land use regulations, contract review, litigation, labor relations and collective bargaining, municipal collections, and employee-related matters. Prior to joining Murphy Desmond, Bill served over 12 years as corporate counsel for Wisconsin counties, where he gained an in-depth knowledge of the needs and issues facing local government.

A shareholder with Murphy Desmond, Bill is named on Best Lawyers in America in Employment Law-Management and Municipal Law. He is also a state licensed lobbyist with interest in matters affecting the growth of businesses throughout Wisconsin. Bill is active in the community and has served on the board for Community Around The Children's Hospital (CATCH) to benefit the American Family Children's Hospital, as President of the Board of Directors for Monona East Side Business Alliance (MESBA), and has served on other professional and charitable boards.



<https://www.bestlawyers.com/lawyers/william-e-bill-morgan/266624>

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Best Lawyers in America - Municipal Law (2026 - Present)
- Best Lawyers in America - Employment Law-Management (2021 - Present)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Monona East Side Business Alliance (MESBA), Board of Directors (2019); President of the Board (2020)
- Community Around The Children's Hospital (CATCH), Board Member
- Leadership Greater Madison Alumni Association, President (2016)
- Wisconsin Early Childhood Association, Fund Development Committee, Past

- Leadership Greater Madison, Class of 2010
- Rainbow Childcare, Inc., Board of Directors, Past President, VP
- Green County Family YMCA, Board of Directors, Past President, VP
- PPAC Court Security Subcommittee (2007-2010)
- District 12 Committee, Office of Lawyer Regulation (2006-2008)
- Dane County Bar Association
- State Bar of Wisconsin

FUN FACT

Bill is an Ironman and then some! He has completed three Ironman (IM) races in Wisconsin ('04, '06 and '08) which includes a 2.4-mile swim, 112-mile bike ride, and full marathon 26.2-mile run -- all in one day! He has also done several half-IM races, completed a stand-alone marathon, and rode his bike in a one-day solo ride from Rice Lake to Sturgeon Bay, WI (nearly 300 miles). Ask Bill to show you his IM tattoo!

**MATTHEW J. FLEMING****AREAS OF PRACTICE**

Alternative Dispute Resolution -
Mediation & Arbitration

Eminent Domain

Litigation

Municipal Law

Real Estate, Land Use &
Construction

Environmental Law, Renewable
Energy & Sustainability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 1998

U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin, 1998

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin,
Madison, Wisconsin,
1998, J.D.

University of Wisconsin -
Madison,
1994, B.S.

✉ mfleming@murphydesmond.com

☎ (608) 268-5606

📠 (608) 257-2508

Attorney Matt Fleming is a Shareholder at Murphy Desmond representing both public and private sector clients in municipal law and related areas including land use regulation, property tax assessment, eminent domain disputes, economic development, tax incremental financing, alcohol and other licensing and permitting issues, open meetings and public records law, ordinance drafting, real estate, special assessments and general litigation.

Matt is also an established presenter on municipal law issues. He has given Continuing Legal Education lectures on topics relating to local government law through Lorman, National Business Institute and the State Bar of Wisconsin, including Open Meetings and Public Records Law, Building Code Enforcement, Land Use and Property Tax Assessment. He was a frequent lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Law School on Local Government Administrative Practice between 2009 and 2019.

Matt was named "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Municipal Law" in 2025 and 2023, and "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation-Land Use and Zoning" in 2026, 2024, and 2021, and "Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation Municipal" in 2026 by Best Lawyers in America. He is on Best Lawyers lists in five categories: Municipal Law, Appellate Practice, Land Use and Zoning Law, Litigation-Municipal Law, Litigation-Land Use and Zoning. In addition, Matt was named a 2025 Wisconsin Super Lawyer in State/Local/Municipal Law. In 2015, Matt was recognized by Martindale-Hubbell and lawyers.com with an AV (top) rating. He was also named a "Rising Star" by Wisconsin Super Lawyers earlier in his career.

MATTHEW FLEMING

2027

RECOGNIZED BY

Best Lawyers®

Matthew Fleming

Best Lawyers
Lawyer of the Year
2026

Litigation - Municipal
Madison, Wisconsin
Matthew Fleming

Best Lawyers
Lawyer of the Year
2026

Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin
Matthew Fleming

Best Lawyers
Lawyer of the Year
2025

Municipal Law
Madison, Wisconsin

Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin

Martindale-Hubbell®



Matthew Fleming



Municipal Law
Madison, Wisconsin

Matthew Fleming



Litigation - Land Use and Zoning
Madison, Wisconsin

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Best Lawyers in America - Land Use and Zoning Law (2027)
- Best Lawyers in America - Appellate Practice (2027)

- Madison Lawyer of the Year - Litigation-Municipal by Best Lawyers in America (2026)
- Wisconsin Super Lawyers - State/Local/Municipal Law (2025)
- Madison Lawyer of the Year-Municipal Law, by Best Lawyers in America (2025, 2023)
- Best Lawyers in America - Litigation-Municipal Law (2023 - Present)
- Madison Lawyer of the Year-Litigation-Land Use and Zoning, by Best Lawyers in America (2026, 2024, 2021)
- Best Lawyers in America - Litigation-Land Use and Zoning (2019 - Present)
- Best Lawyers in America - Municipal Law (2019 - Present)
- Rated AV (top rating) by Martindale Hubbell
- "Rising Star" - Municipal Law, Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Magazine (2006, 2007, 2011)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Administrative Law and Local Government Section of the State Bar of Wisconsin, Board of Directors (2011 - 2014)
- Dane County Bar Association, Member
- State Bar of Wisconsin, Member
- American Bar Association, Member

PUBLISHED WORKS:

- Interviewed for feature article: "Lawyers: Foxconn lawsuit not your typical eminent-domain dispute," *Wisconsin Law Journal* (January 23, 2018)



RYAN G. BRAITHWAITE

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Municipal Law
Litigation
Eminent Domain

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 2001
U.S. District Court Eastern
District of Wisconsin
U.S. District Court Western
District of Wisconsin
U.S. Court of Appeals 7th
Circuit
U.S. Supreme Court

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law
School, Madison, Wisconsin,
2000, J.D.
Honors: magna cum laude
University of
Wisconsin-Madison,
Philosophy,
1997, B.A., Philosophy

✉ rbraithwaite@murphydesmond.com

☎ (608) 268-5589

Attorney Ryan Braithwaite's legal practice focuses on municipal law, municipal litigation, and general litigation in Wisconsin. Ryan has over 20 years of experience representing municipalities in contract disputes, defense of high-end property tax appeals, eminent domain, handling special assessments, land use, zoning regulations, drafting municipal ordinances and contracts, and open meetings/records.

Ryan's litigation experience also includes non-municipal general litigation matters such as commercial disputes, contract disputes, product liability, insurance defense, trademark and copyright, federal and appellate litigation, and personal injury cases. Ryan has argued before the Wisconsin Court of Appeals and the 7th Circuit.

Ryan's background includes presenting on a range of legal topics before the Wisconsin State Bar, CVMIC, and the Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin. In addition, he has written articles published in *Civil Trial Counsel of Wisconsin* and *Wisconsin Realtor Magazine*. Earlier in his career, Ryan was recognized as a "Rising Star" by Wisconsin Super Lawyers.

Based in the firm's Madison office, Ryan is also available to assist clients in our Dodgeville and Janesville offices, and throughout Wisconsin.

HONORS AND AWARDS:

- Wisconsin Super Lawyers "Rising Star" - State, Local & Municipal Law (2007, 2011)

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Wisconsin State Bar Association, Member (2001 - Present)
- Dane County Bar Association, Member (2025)
- American Bar Association, Member (Past)
- Milwaukee Bar Association, Member (Past)
- Civil Trial Counsel of America, Member (Past)
- Thomas E. Fairchild Inns of Court, Member (Past)

CLASSES/SEMINARS TAUGHT:

- Presenter, Wisconsin State Bar Annual Open Meetings/Records Conference (2012)
- Presenter, League of Wisconsin Municipalities Annual Assessor's Conference (2012 - 2019)

FUN FACT

Ryan enjoys spending time with his two dogs and is an avid car enthusiast.



KATHERINE A. JENS

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Municipal Law

Real Estate, Land Use &
Construction

Environmental Law, Renewable
Energy & Sustainability

BAR ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin, 2024

EDUCATION

Florida State University College
of Law, Tallahassee, Florida,
2024, J.D.

University of
Wisconsin-Madison,
2020, Real Estate and Urban
Land Economics, B.B.A.

✉ kjens@murphydesmond.com

📞 (608) 268-5568

Attorney Katherine (Katie) Jens is a member of the firm's municipal, real estate law, and environmental law teams. Katie assists Murphy Desmond's municipal clients with drafting ordinances, contract review, negotiations, special assessments, and open meetings requirements. In real estate, Katie handles matters related to titles, deeds, zoning, property disputes, and transactional work such as buying and selling a home. Katie also works with the firm's environmental practice group on issues related to land use, climate factors, renewable energy, and sustainability.

A 2024 graduate of Florida State University College of Law, Katie worked as a law clerk where she assisted with real estate matters in estate planning, including transfer-on-death deeds. Katie also served as a student volunteer where she advised indigent clients on their rights and remedies in home ownership and renting matters. As an intern with a Wisconsin title company, Katie reviewed title insurance policies, examined closing statements for accuracy, and assisted at numerous closings.

While in law school, Katie served as an editor for the *Florida State University Business Review*, where she earned the 2022-2023 "Staff Editor of the Year" award.

Katie is available to assist clients in the firm's Madison, Janesville, and Dodgeville offices.

ASSOCIATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS:

- Wisconsin State Bar Association, Member (2025 - Present)

FUN FACT

Katie enjoys spending time with friends and family in her free time!