



## Leslie A. Abdo

Shareholder

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Leslie Abdo is a member of Foster Swift's Municipal and General Litigation Practice Groups. Leslie advises the firm's public entity clients including cities, townships, counties, villages, libraries and local health departments on compliance with applicable state and federal laws. Her representative matters include:

- Municipal Prosecution - misdemeanor and civil infraction ordinance and code violations
- Zoning, Planning and Land Use
- Ordinance Drafting - police power and zoning ordinances including regulations for medical marijuana, wind energy, solar energy, short-term rentals, and broadband internet
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act (OMA) Compliance
- Inter-local Agreement Negotiation and Drafting

In addition to her work with municipalities and local governments, Leslie also handles a wide range of commercial litigation matters where she has represented businesses, health care entities, property owners and insurance companies. She also regularly handles administrative appeals, such as from zoning ordinance interpretations or other administrative agencies.

Leslie is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Notre Dame Law School where she received the Dean's Award in Notre Dame's Intensive Trial Advocacy Course. She was also selected to participate in Notre Dame's Advanced Criminal Justice Externship where she represented criminal defendants charged with lower-level felonies.

### SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

**Innovative Approaches to Wind and Solar**, *Community Economic Development Association of Michigan (CEDAM)*, June 7, 2023

### PRACTICE AREAS

Municipal Prosecution  
Municipal & Public Entity Law  
General & Commercial Litigation

### EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame Law School, J.D., 2014  
University of Michigan, B.A., 2011, *with distinction*, Political Science and Communication Studies

### BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan  
U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan  
U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

### HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

3 in 10 Award, Grand Rapids Bar Association, 2020  
*Best Lawyers in America*® "One to Watch" (Municipal Law), 2021-2025  
*Best Lawyers in America*® "One to Watch" (Commercial Litigation), 2024-2025



**Best Practices for Townships for Complying with ADA & Fair Housing Act**, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference*, April 26, 2022

**What You Need to Know Now About Renewable Energy Ordinances**, *Michigan Townships Association: Planning & Zoning Retreat*, October 28, 2021

**Marijuana Petitions Ballot Proposals**, *Michigan Municipal League (MML)*, September 24, 2021

**Meeting Virtually: Amendments to the Open Meetings Act**, *Foster Swift*, November 10, 2020

**What the Heck is an SAD?**, *MTA Annual Conference & Expo, April 2019*, April 3, 2019

**Zoning Law Updates**, *Legal Institute - MTA Annual Conference & Expo, April 2019*, April 1, 2019

**OMA & FOIA Updates**, *Legal Institute - MTA Annual Expo*, April 2018

## **PUBLICATIONS**

**Distribution of Michigan's \$81M Share of Opioid Settlement to Begin**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, February 2, 2023

**American Rescue Plan Act Provides Federal Funding for Michigan Local Governments**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News E-blast*, March 23, 2021

**An Update on OMA Legislation Amendments**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News E-blast*, October 19, 2020

**Pending OMA Legislation: What You Need to Know**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News E-blast*, October 14, 2020

**New amendments to the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News E-blast*, January 23, 2019

**The Opioid Crisis: Legal Updates on the Nationwide Lawsuit and How it May Affect Your Local Government**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, April 24, 2018

**Township's Decision Regarding Wind Energy Upheld in Federal Court**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law Newsletter*, November 28, 2017

**Nuts and Bolts of the New Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, April 14, 2017

**U.S. Supreme Court Vacates Lower Court Decision Which Ruled Against High School's Bathroom Policy for Transgender Students**, *Foster Swift School Law News*, March 6, 2017

**Municipalities now Prohibited from Banning Plastic Bags**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 3, 2017

**Governor Snyder Signs Medical Marijuana Facilities Licensing Act**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, September 28, 2016

**Election Law Updates and How They May Affect Your Local Government**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 26, 2016

**Receivers in Divorce Cases**, *Michigan Bar Journal*, July 2015

**Solar Energy: A "Hot" Topic at the Local Level**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 30, 2015



**Attorney Fees Awarded Only After Party Obtains Injunctive Relief**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 27, 2015

**Michigan Legislature Changes Taxable Value "Uncapping" Rules for Family Transfers**, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, October 30, 2014

**Revisiting the "Merger Problem" in Money Laundering Prosecutions Post-Santos and the Fraud Enforcement and Recovery Act of 2009**, *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics & Public Policy*, Vol. 28 (2014)

## **MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS**

### **Legal Affiliations:**

- State Bar of Michigan
- Grand Rapids Bar Association
- Women Lawyers Association of West Michigan
  - Member of the Board of Directors, Treasurer

### **Community Involvement:**

- Grand Rapids Ballet Company
  - Member of the Board of Directors