



Brian G. Goodenough

Shareholder

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Currently, Brian Goodenough chairs the firm's Employer Services Practice Group where he practices municipal law, zoning and land-use disputes and workers' compensation law. Previously, he served as a member of the firm's Executive Committee and as an officer of the firm.

His practice focuses on:

- **Zoning and land-use disputes** - counsels townships, cities, counties and other municipalities.
- **Municipal law** - represents municipalities against Freedom of Information Act and Open Meetings Act claims, counsels on cemetery liability, municipal insurance defense, fire/public safety department formation, litigation and funding.
- **Workers' compensation** - defends insurance companies and employers in workers' compensation litigation.

Brian has been recognized for his insurance defense work on behalf of his municipal clients. This includes being named Attorney of the Year in 2003 by Michigan's largest insurer of municipalities. He has been named to *Best Lawyers in America* in Municipal, Real Estate and Workers' Compensation law.

Brian was an adjunct professor for 20-plus years at the Thomas M. Cooley Law School, where he has taught land-use and zoning law. In addition, he is an active member of several civic groups, including the Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, where he has served as the group's Chair and as its General Counsel. Brian has served on the Board of Directors for Ele's Place.

Brian started as an associate at Foster Swift in 1989. In 1996, he became a shareholder.

PRACTICE AREAS

Workers' Compensation

Zoning & Land Use

Insurance Defense

General & Commercial Litigation

Agri-Business

Employer Services

Municipal & Public Entity Law

EDUCATION

Western Michigan University Thomas M. Cooley Law School, J.D., 1988, *cum laude*

Central Michigan University, B.S., 1985

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan

U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Theodore Swift Civility Award, Ingham County Bar Association, 2023

AV® Preeminent™
Martindale-Hubbell

Best Lawyers in America, Litigation – Real Estate "Lawyer of the Year" in Lansing, 2017, 2020, 2025



SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Psychiatric Workers' Compensation Claims - Mental Health Disability Standard, *CompOne Administrators*, September 19, 2024

Can an employee be fired while away on FMLA?, *Stop Before You Crash: Workers' Compensation and Employment Law*, March 22, 2017

"Favored-Work" Doctrine Under Michigan Workers' Compensation Law, *Stop Before You Crash: Workers' Compensation and Employment Law*, March 22, 2017

New Legal Trends in Zoning and Land Use Regulation, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Educational Conference & Expo*, January 20, 2016

Adjunct Professor - Zoning and Land Use, *Thomas M. Cooley Law School*, 2000 - Present

Governmental Immunity/Re-Insurance, 2010

Workers' Compensation Round Table Discussion, *Client Seminar for Large National Insurance Company*, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012

Zoning and Land Use Overview, *Foster Swift Legal Update for Township Officials*, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011

General Workers Compensation Defense Issues, 2007, 2010, 2011

Zoning, *Foster Swift Legal Update for Township Officials*, 2009, 2010, 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Understanding the Ins and Outs of the "Favored-Work" Doctrine Under Michigan Workers' Compensation Law, *Foster Swift Employment Labor & Benefits News*, January 25, 2018

Fact or Fiction: Can an Employee be Fired while on FMLA?, *Foster Swift Employment Labor & Benefits Newsletter*, October 25, 2017

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Legal Affiliations:

- Ingham County Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
 - Workers' Compensation Section, Director

Industry & Professional Associations:

- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Member

Best Lawyers in America - (Insurance Law, Workers' Compensation Law - Employers, Litigation - Real Estate, Litigation - Municipal), 2009-2025

Attorney of the Year for 2003, Mid-West Claims for Municipal Insurance Defense

Award for 15 years of Continuous Service, Mid-West Claims (Defending municipalities through Mid-West Claims)



Community Involvement:

- Ele's Place, Board of Directors
- Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce
 - Former General Counsel
 - Former Chairman of the Board of Directors
- Volunteers of America, former member of Board of Directors
- DeWitt Township Volunteer Fire Department, former member

RECENT BLOG POSTS

Health Care Law Blog

Deputy Director of LEO Issues New Emergency Rule Affecting Workers' Compensation

Michigan Workers' Comp Defense Blog

Appeals Court Decides Social/Recreational Activity Case

New Law Expands First Responders Presumed Coverage Fund

Michigan Legislature Considers New COVID-19 Presumption Bill

COVID-19: Is It An Occupational Disease or Personal Injury – And Does It Really Even Matter?

COVID-19 Related Paid Leave Tax Credits Extended Into 2021

Appeals Court Rejects Comp Benefits in 'Special Mission' Case

Recent Michigan Supreme Court Decision Affects Workers' Comp COVID-19 Rebuttable Presumption

Michigan's Emergency Rules Give Personal Injury Presumption to "First Response Employees" with COVID-19