

## DETROIT

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## NEW YORK

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## Services

### Corporate and Transactions

Corporate, Securities and  
Commercial Transactions

Securities Regulation

Corporate Governance and  
Compliance

Startups and Venture Capital

Mergers and Acquisitions

### International

Mexico/Latin America

Poland

Customs and Import Compliance

Doing Business in the United  
States

India

International Sales and  
Commercial Transactions

## Industries

Aerospace and Defense

Automotive

Next Generation Vehicles and  
Mobility

## Education

University of Michigan Law School,  
J.D., 1986

University of Michigan, B.A.



## Richard A. Walawender

Principal

Richard Walawender is a lawyer in Miller Canfield's Corporate Group, leads the firm's Autonomous and Connected Vehicles practice team and plays an essential role in the firm's International practice. He also served as a managing director of the firm from 2001 to 2003.

## Corporate Law

His practice specialties include mergers and acquisitions, corporate and commercial law, corporate governance and securities, private equity, venture capital, equity and debt financing, international transactions and joint ventures, project finance, and franchising.

His clients include publicly traded companies, private equity and hedge funds, financial institutions, privately held companies, start-ups and technology ventures. He acts as general counsel for several clients, and special corporate counsel to domestic and international companies, and represents many clients in structuring their cross-border operations and closing transactions.

## Automotive Industry

As a leader of the firm's Automotive Practice, Richard coordinates the firm's attorneys specializing in the full range of legal issues affecting clients involved in the automotive industry. He has a wealth of experience in representing both strategic (OEM and tier suppliers) as well as private equity clients on automotive industry transactions, including mergers, dispositions, acquisitions, Section 363 acquisitions in bankruptcy, joint ventures and alliances, contract drafting negotiations and disputes, licensing, recapitalizations and refinancings, and

**Richard A. Walawender**

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## **Bar Admissions**

Michigan  
New York

## **Languages**

Polish

distressed supplier/customer dealings. More recently, he has spearheaded the firm's representation of traditional auto companies as well as new software companies entering into the exciting autonomous vehicle sector of the auto industry, and has led the effort in establishing Miller Canfield as a legal pioneer in this area.

## **International**

As a leader in the firm's International Practice he has also been the lead attorney on numerous multinational M&A transactions for U.S., Canadian, European, Asian, Mexican, and other non-U.S. clients. He co-founded the firm's Polish partnership in 1991 and served as the lead attorney on the first corporate commercial paper issuance of a U.S. company in Eastern Europe, as well as on the establishment and capitalization of Solidarity Bank, one of the first private commercial banks in Poland. He frequently advises clients on outbound and inbound investment structuring and strategies, international joint ventures and strategic alliances, as well as FCPA, CFIUS, export controls, and other cross-border issues and disputes. His practice involves international law generally, but he has especially focused on Emerging Market economies, including the BRIC countries, Mexico, Eastern Europe, and Korea.

## **Representative Matters**

### **Norwegian Automotive Supplier Acquisition**

Represented Norway-based Kongsberg Automotive ASA on its acquisition of Global Motion Systems from Teleflex Inc. for \$560 million.

### **Mexican Automotive Supplier Acquisition**

Represented Mexican auto supplier Metalsa SA de CV in the \$150 million acquisition of the structural products business from US-based Dana Holding Corp.

## **Honors**

Legal 500 US Detroit Elite, Corporate and M&A, 2026

Best Lawyers in America, International Trade and Finance Law, 2012-present;  
Mergers & Acquisitions Law, 2013-present; Detroit Lawyer of the Year, International Trade and Finance Law, 2018, 2022 & 2024

Michigan Super Lawyers, Mergers & Acquisitions, 2009-2023

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Leading Lawyers, Corporate Finance Law, International Business & Trade Law, Mergers & Acquisitions Law, Publicly Held Corporations Law, 2014–present

*DBusiness Magazine*, Top Lawyers, 2010-present:

Commercial Law

International Trade Law

Mergers & Acquisitions Law

European Legal Experts 2010, Real Estate and Corporate + M&A

Crain's Detroit Business, "90 for the 90s," 1990

**Professional Activities**

American Bar Association

International Bar Association

State Bar of Michigan

New York State Bar Association

U.S.-Poland Business Council

U.S.-India Business Council

**Civic, Cultural & Social Activities**

Honorary Consul of the Republic of Poland in Detroit, 2018-present

Consular Corps of Michigan, Vice Dean, 2022-present

Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, Audit Committee Chair, 2018-present

The Emerging Opal, Board of Directors

Michigan Economic Development Foundation, Former Board Member

Madonna University, Board of Trustees, 2002-2014; Chairperson, 2008-2014

Orchard Lake Schools, Board of Regents, 2008-2012

Meadowbrook Concours d'Elegance, Board of Directors, 2007-2009

Polish Institute of Arts and Sciences

Cornerstone Schools Association, Secretary and Legal Counsel, 1990-1996

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## **Speeches**

"Trade and Tariffs in the USMCA Region: What Manufacturers Need to Know," Michigan Manufacturers Association (MMA) Operations Conference 2026, Panelist, April 23, 2026

"The Supreme Court, Trade Powers and Tariffs: What Manufacturers Need to Know," MMA Webinar, Speaker, February 26, 2026

"ReArm Europe Plan/Readiness 2030," 16th Annual Michigan Defense Expo, Speaker, April 9, 2025

"The Triangle of Cooperation: Poland, Ukraine, USA - How to Build a Strong Economy Together," Global Polonia Summit: 60 Million Congress, Panelist, October 18–20, 2024

"Nearshoring: A Successful Landing of Operations in Mexico," American Industries Group, Speaker, June 6, 2024

"Exploring Mexican Markets: Unveiling Opportunities for International Trade," Miller Canfield/Clayton & McKervey, Panelist, June 1, 2023

Poland Business Forum, Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce, September 29, 2016

"Autonomous Vehicles," Miller Canfield Cappuccino with Counsel Series, May 24, 2016

"Looking to Expand and Do Business in Mexico? 4th Quarter Update!," Miller Canfield, November 18, 2014

## **Publications**

"Supreme Court strikes down Trump's global tariffs; president says he'll replace the levies," *Crain's Detroit Business*, Quoted, February 20, 2026

"International Contracts: Drafting Considerations," *Michigan Bar Journal*, March 2024

"The Outlook for U.S. Corporate Tax Reform, Border Adjustments and Trade Actions," *Mexico Update: What Impacts Would The Potential Imposition of a Border Tax or NAFTA Renegotiation Have?*, Detroit, Michigan, April 5, 2017

"Roots in Revolution: Miller Canfield in Poland," profile in *CEE LM* magazine, June 2014

*The Bankruptcy and Reorganisation Law*, (Co-translators Maja Binkowska and Karolina Niemirska-Fido), C.H. Beck, 2010

*The Code of Administrative Proceedings* (Co-translators Maja Binkowska and Andrzej Chelchowski), C.H. Beck, 2010

"Legal Considerations in Exit Strategies: IPO vs. Sale," in Harry Cendrowski, et al., eds., *Private Equity* (John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 2008) pp. 357-398

"Poland's Revised Bankruptcy, Reorganization Law," (Co-author Karolina Niemirska-Fido), American Bankruptcy Institute, June 2010

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"Europe," Co-Author with Andrzej Chelchowski, *The International Lawyer*, American Bar Association, Volume 4, Number 2, Summer 2009

"Directors' Duties for Corporations Near Insolvency," *Miller Canfield Corporate Law Bulletin*, October 2008

"Licensing Option for U.S. Companies Doing Business Abroad," *Crain's Detroit Business*, June 1995

"Bonding and Finance for Municipalities in Poland," series of articles printed in *Wspolnota Polska* (Poland), 1995

"At-large Elections, A Quantitative Analysis, Note," *Journal of Law Reform*, March 1986; reprinted in Roger L. Kemp, ed., *Local Government Election Practices* (McFarland & Company, Inc., 2006)

"Polish Diplomacy During the Second World War, Review Article," *The Polish Review*, June 1984

## Articles

Old Tariffs, New Tariffs, Future Tariffs – Understanding the Landscape

The Trade War Begins with Canada, China, and Mexico

Tariffs on Mexico, Canada Paused for 30 Days

Preparing for Tariff Increases – Mitigation Strategies

Can the President Impose Tariffs Without Congressional Approval?

Poland's Special Act on Assistance to Ukrainian Refugees

Preparing for Cyberattacks and Limiting Liability

Record Level of FCPA Enforcement in 2020 Highlights Key Risk Areas

Poland Authorizes a New Type of Corporate Entity: The "Simple Joint Stock Company"

Foreign-Owned Company Eligibility for PPP 2.0 Loans

PPP Loan Audit Team

Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program: What Businesses Need to Know to Prepare

Loan Forgiveness Under Paycheck Protection Program: Issues to Consider

COVID-19: Increased Funding for Paycheck Protection Program Loans, Economic Injury Disaster Loans and Emergency Grants

CARES Act Authorizes Reimbursement for Department of Defense Contractors' Paid Leave Expenses

COVID-19: Federal Reserve's Main Street Lending Program: What Businesses Need to Know to Prepare

Memo Pomoc Finansowa USA CARES Act

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PPP Loan Eligibility: Do You Count Foreign Employees or Just U.S. Employees?

COVID-19: Recouping Business Losses Through Business Insurance

Invoking Force Majeure for COVID-19 in International Supply Contracts

Legal Considerations in Excusing Contractual Performance Due to Coronavirus

Changes to International Sales Contracts Coming with the Release of Incoterms® 2020

Update on China's Retaliatory Tariffs on U.S. Goods and How to File a Request for Exclusion

New Requirements for Foreigners Filing Company Financial Statements in Poland

GDPR Enforcement Coming Soon

AV Accidents: Consumers Want Clarity on Liability

International: Afghanistan Practice

Compliance Deadline Approaching to Comply with EU's New Data Protection Regulations

Amendments to Poland's Income Tax Laws Effective Jan. 1, 2018

Key Takeaways: NHTSA's Voluntary Guidance for Automated Driving Systems

Nowa Administracja Prezydenta-Elekta Trumpa, a plany dotycz ce korekty „podatku granicznego”

Nueva Administración de Trump Considera un “Impuesto De Ajuste Fronterizo”

Worries about NAFTA Take Back Seat to Potential “Border Adjustment Tax”

Michigan's New Automated Vehicle Legislation: Great Leap Forward, But Ambiguities Need Clarification

REITS May Soon be Coming to Poland

¿Podría el Presidente Trump sacar a los Estados Unidos del TLCAN? Preguntas frecuentes básicas.

Could President Trump Really Pull the U.S. Out of NAFTA? Basic FAQs

Federal Automated Vehicles Policy: 6 Key Issues for the Automotive Supply Chain

Miller Canfield in Mexico

European Court Invalidates EU-US Data Privacy Safe Harbor Framework

NLRB Ups the Stakes for Successor Employers

Summary of IC-DISC Tax Benefits

'Ralls' Decision Doesn't Alter CFIUS Voluntary Reporting Analysis for Foreign Investment in U.S.

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Prywatne inwestycje zagraniczne w Rosji? „Nyet!” Na Ukrainie? „Da!”

Polish Shale Gas Law Update – Tax-Free Opportunities!

Foreign Private Investment in Russia? “Nyet!” In Ukraine? “Da!”