



Yordana Wysocki

Dynamic and seasoned attorney with nearly 20 years' experience in local government law, specializing in litigation management and strategies, regulatory compliance, and employment relations. Proven leader in guiding clients, assessing risks, and crafting innovative legal strategies to drive successful outcomes.

PROFICIENCIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Expertise in Municipal Law and Governance:** Represents municipalities, townships, and park districts as general counsel for 10 years. Advises on a variety of issues, including governance, statutory and regulatory compliance, contractual issues, employment matters, budgetary issues, OMA/FOIA, and parliamentary procedures. Incoming Chair of the Local Government Section Council of the Illinois State Bar Association for 2025-2026.
- **Leadership Experience:** Partner since 2016, assisting in firm management and supervision of associate attorneys and staff. Currently mentors, guides, and supervises three associate attorneys and various staff. Excelled in leadership roles with the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Legacy Project. Recipient of the 2021-2022 ISBA Newsletter Editor Service Award.
- **Employment Relations:** Drafts and negotiates employment agreements, manages discipline and termination actions and administrative reviews, and conducts employee misconduct investigation and adjudications. Defends employers in employment litigation. Familiar with laws and regulations impacting the employer-employee relationship.
- **Large Project Management:** Represented government entities in complex litigation and class action suits. Managed large-scale defense during a Department of Justice investigation into alleged housing discrimination.
- **Creative Solutions and Innovations:** Created unconventional solutions for existing client problems, including drafting new policies and practices to streamline tricky tasks and eliminate pitfalls. Engages with diverse stakeholders to mediate disputes to achieve beneficial outcomes. Received an award from the Local Government Lawyers Association for litigation work through creative advocacy.
- **Contract Negotiation and Drafting:** Successfully negotiated and drafted various complex, multi-million dollar third-party and intergovernmental agreements.
- **Civil Litigation Management and Strategies:** Veteran civil litigator handling all aspects of discovery, pleadings, trial, appeals, and settlement negotiation in state and federal court. First-chair and second-chaired several trials in federal court defending claims of civil rights violations.
- **Risk Assessment and Mitigation:** Identified, evaluated, and managed legal risks to safeguard local governments and officials in court. Successfully defended against claims involving constitutional and statutory rights violations. Provided strategic counsel to mitigate liabilities in cases related to personal injury, land use disputes, and contract law, ensuring proactive risk management and legal compliance.

LEGAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Hervas, Condon & Bersani, P.C., Itasca, Illinois. August 2008 – Present.

- Shareholder since 2023, and partner since 2016. Mentors and supervisors associate attorneys, paralegals, legal assistants, and clerks. Assists in business management.
- Represents and advises municipalities and other government entities as general counsel.
- Conducts employment misconduct investigations and provides recommendations for employee discipline and employment policy changes for local government employers.



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- Handles a caseload of 10-15 litigation cases.
- Assists clients in change management, policy revisions, procedural suggestions, and direct training and education to employees directing the change.

Research Staff Attorney – Illinois Supreme Court, Springfield, Illinois. August 2006 – July 2008

- Prepared memoranda for the justices on current cases, petitions for leave to appeal, and pending motions.
- Researched diverse topics in Illinois law, including statutory and constitutional interpretations, and aspects of civil and criminal procedures.

COMMITTEES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Illinois State Bar Association

- Chair (incoming), Local Government Section Council, 2025-2026
- Vice Chair, Local Government Section Council, 2024-2025
- Secretary, Local Government Section Council, 2023-2024
- Newsletter Editor, Local Government Section Council, 2017-2024
- 2021-2022 ISBA Newsletter Editor Service Award

Legacy Project (promotes women leadership in local government)

- Outreach and Networking Committee Co-Chair, 2019-2020
- Professional Development Committee, 2016-2020

Chicago Bar Association

- Co-Chair of Local Government Committee, 2020-2021

DuPage County Bar Association

Illinois Local Government Lawyers Association, 2016-present

Defense Research Institute, 2016-2023

RECENT LECTURES & PRESENTATIONS

Illinois Municipal League (Annual Conferences, 2023, 2024)

Illinois Park & Recreation Association (Soaring to New Heights Conferences, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024)

Chicago Bar Association (Local Government Committee, September 2021, and April 2023)

Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association (Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association Institute, 2018)

Illinois Sheriff's Association (Sheriffs' Winter Training Conference 2017, and Jail Administrators' Conference 2022)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- "Reasonableness, Deliberate Indifference, and *Kingsley v. Hendrickson*'s Legacy," *For the Defense*, Vol. 58, No. 7 DRI, (July 2016).
- Balancing Jail Security with Arrestees' Constitutional Rights in Pre-Arrestment Strip Search Cases After *Florence v. Board of Chosen Freeholders*, *DRI Governmental Liability Committee Newsletter*, Vol. 22, Issue 1, March 22, 2016, with Michael Condon & Mike Bersani.

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor– Chicago-Kent School of Law, Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, Illinois ▪ 2006

Bachelor of Science, History Major – University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin ▪ 2001