

# ILLINOIS LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAWYERS ASSOCIATION



## *29<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference Speaker Bios*

### ***Michael Bersani***

Mike Bersani is a partner with Hervas, Condon & Bersani, P.C. Mike received his undergraduate degree from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign in 1985, and his law degree from John Marshall Law School in 1988. Following law school, Mike clerked for the Honorable Judge Edward T. Barfield, State of Florida First District Court of Appeals.

Since entering private practice in 1990, Mike has concentrated his practice in municipal and park district law, and federal civil rights and state law tort litigation. He is a co-contributor to the 2020 IICLE chapter on Civil Rights Liability, and he is rated AV Preeminent® in Martindale-Hubbell. Mike is admitted to the practice law in the U.S. Supreme Court, Seventh Circuit, and the U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Central Districts of Illinois, as well as the States of Illinois and Florida.

### ***Brooke D. Lenneman***

Brooke Lenneman counsels local governments on a wide range of topics including zoning, licensing and permitting, governance, policy, and statutory compliance, including compliance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, Illinois Open Meetings Act, Prevailing Wage Act, and Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. She is the City Attorney for the City of Warrenville.

Brooke has extensive experience drafting legislation; zoning and other development approvals; professional services, construction, and information technology contracts; and intergovernmental agreements. Brooke also represents local government clients in code enforcement, demolition, and railroad right-of-way matters in court and before the Illinois Commerce Commission. She regularly attends board and commission meetings for local government clients.

Brooke also represents property owners and developers in a variety of real estate and transactional projects, and is regularly engaged to resolve licensing, permitting, and other regulatory issues. She counsels business and property owners when building, zoning, licensing, or other municipal code violations have been alleged, including litigation in Circuit Court and before administrative bodies.

Brooke previously served as Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Chicago where she gained extensive knowledge of Chicago's Municipal Code, permitting processes, zoning administration, and legislative processes. Brooke prosecuted violations of the City's zoning ordinance and building code, and defended the City in complaints for equitable relief.

### ***David Mathues***

David Mathues is a partner at Hervas, Condon, & Bersani, PC, located in Itasca, Illinois. His practice is heavily weighted towards defending Section 1983 lawsuits in every stage of litigation. He has conducted

four federal civil jury trials and argued five times before the Seventh Circuit. David previously spent five years as an Assistant State's Attorney for the Cook County State's Attorney's Office, and, before that, worked as a Litigation Associate for Kirkland & Ellis LLP. He was a law clerk for the Hon. Danny J. Bogs, then-Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit. David graduated from the University of Notre Dame Law School, *summa cum laude*, in 2007.

### ***Jill O'Brien***

Jill O'Brien joined Laner Muchin in 1989 and has been a partner since 1995. She is a member of the Firm's Executive Committee and Chairperson of the Firm's Attorney Hiring Committee.

Jill's practice focuses on the representation of public and private sector employers in a wide variety of labor relations law matters, including collective bargaining negotiations, grievance handling, mediation and arbitration hearings (grievance and interest arbitration), as well as in representation/certification and unfair labor practice hearings before the National Labor Relations Board and the Illinois Labor Relations Board.

### ***Lucy Prather***

Lucy Prather received her Juris Doctor degree from Harvard Law School in 2020. She then served as a Law Clerk to the Honorable Roslynn Mauskopf on the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

As part of the Firm's land use and municipal law practice, Lucy counsels local governments on a wide range of topics including zoning, licensing and permitting, governance, policy, and statutory compliance, including compliance with the Illinois Freedom of Information Act, Illinois Open Meetings Act, Prevailing Wage Act, and Illinois State Officials and Employees Ethics Act. Lucy also represents property owners and developers in a variety of real estate, entitlement, and transactional projects.

### ***Todd A. Solomon***

Todd A. Solomon focuses his practice on designing, amending, and administering pension, profit sharing, 401(k), employee stock ownership and 403(b) plans, as well as nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements. He also counsels privately and publicly held corporations and tax-exempt entities regarding fiduciary issues under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA), employee benefits issues involved in corporate transactions, executive compensation matters and the implementation of benefit programs for domestic partners of employees. Todd has significant ERISA Title I experience and has counseled plan fiduciaries with respect to investment policies, private equity, hedge funds, and other alternative investments, prohibited transaction issues, investment management agreements and payment of expenses from plan assets.

Todd is a fellow of the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel, which recognizes attorneys who have made significant contributions to the advancement of the employee benefits field for at least twenty years. He is also ranked among the nations' leading employee benefits and executive compensation lawyers by Chambers USA and The Legal 500 United States.

### ***Stephanie Villinski***

Villinski has served as Deputy Director of the Illinois Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism since October 2017. At the Commission, she oversees operations and develops and executes professional programming, including administering and supporting the Commission's mentoring, education, and law school programs. Villinski often writes and presents on professionalism topics for legal professionals across the state, with a particular interest in health and wellness.

Prior to joining the Commission, Villinski was the Content Director at Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO), where she oversaw the publication of user-centered content for those in need of legal assistance, and an attorney at LAF (formerly the Legal Assistance Foundation), where she specialized in public housing issues throughout Chicago.

Villinski is a member of the ABA, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, the ABA's Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP) Law School Outreach Committee, and an advisory committee member of Catholic Charities Legal Assistance.

She received a J.D. with Order of Coif distinction from DePaul University College of Law and graduated summa cum laude from Saint Mary's College in Indiana.