



MACT 2018 Winter
Educational Conference
Belaire, MI
Conference Speaker Biographies

PUMP UP THE RETURNS: WHAT CAN A TREASURER DO BEYOND CD'S AND CASH ACCOUNTS

Alan Supp – Morgan Stanley

EDUCATIONAL SESSION

Eric Scorsone – Senior Deputy Treasurer, State of Michigan

OPIOID EPIDEMIC AND THE IMACT ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Benjamin Richman, Edelson PC

CYBER SECURITY FRAUD PREVENTION

Jordan Johnston

I have my masters in exercise physiology, I used to work at NASA as an exercise physiologist. I have been with the service for two years. I am in the fraud squad, I am on the electronic crimes task for the secret service and eastern Michigan. I am a forensic examiner for the secret service and have my A+ certification. I also am on a dark web task force with HSI and crypto currency task force with The FBI. Had my first daughter Mia two months ago. Originally from Ohio. Avid Cavs Fan.

EDUCATION SESSION – ATTORNEYS PANEL

Peter Goldstein

B.A., University of Michigan, 1965

M.B.A., University of Chicago, 1967

J. D., University of Michigan, 1969

Admitted to practice law in the State of Michigan, U.S. District Court, Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, U. S. bankruptcy court for the Western District of Michigan, and United States Supreme Court. Practice concentrates on the representation of governmental entities with an emphasis on property tax matters. Clients include Arenac County Treasurer, Bishop International Airport Authority, City of Frankenmuth, Charter Township of Flint, Genesee County Treasurer, Genesee County Land Bank Authority, Mt. Morris Charter Township, Sanilac County Treasurer, Tuscola County Treasurer.

Charles Lawler

Kevin Smith

Kevin T. Smith retired in 2014 after 30 years of service as an Assistant Michigan Attorney General, where his primary focus was property tax foreclosure and property/water law. He is a graduate of Northern Michigan University and the University of Michigan Law School. Kevin appeared in the circuit courts of at least 78 of Michigan's 83 counties and had a significant appellate practice. He has authored several articles and is a frequent speaker and panelist on the topic of property tax foreclosures. Kevin is enjoying retirement immensely.

Luke Middleton

Luke Middleton is a licensed attorney and currently acts as General Counsel to Title Check, LLC. Title Check serves more than sixty County Treasurers throughout the State of Michigan as well as the Michigan Department of Treasury, offering a range of property tax foreclosure services. In addition to his role as General Counsel, Luke oversees quality control, software development, risk management, and many day-to-day tasks at Title Check. Luke also maintains a private law practice where he litigates matters related to property tax foreclosure, provides services to county land banks including expedited quiet title actions, and handles other real estate matters. Luke currently lives in Kalamazoo with his beautiful wife, Erin.

Thomas King

Mr. King was born and raised in Battle Creek, Michigan and was admitted to practice law in the State of Michigan in 1982. From 1982 through 1990, he served as Assistant City Attorney and then Deputy City Attorney for the City of Kalamazoo, Michigan. Since 1990, Mr. King has been in private practice. He is a shareholder and officer in the firm of Kreis, Enderle, Hudgins & Borsos, P.C., where he specializes in municipal law. Mr. King has represented governmental units in matters before the Trial and Appellate Courts of the State of Michigan, the Michigan Tax Tribunal, and numerous Federal Courts including the United States Bankruptcy Courts for the Eastern and Western Districts of Michigan, the United States District Court for the Western District of Michigan, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the United States Supreme Court.

As a municipal attorney with more than 33 years of experience, Mr. King has represented governmental entities in such diverse types of matters as general municipal matters, planning and zoning, collection of taxes, real estate transactions, economic development matters, ordinance preparation, initiative and referendum matters, civil litigation (including municipal liability and zoning matters), ballot proposals, Headlee Tax Limitation matters, water and wastewater matters, actions seeking injunctive relief, as well as other types of matters too numerous to mention. Mr. King has also litigated zoning issues in both the State and Federal Trial and Appellate Courts.

Mr. King's expertise in the area of economic development resulted in the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (formally the Michigan Jobs Commission and the Michigan Department of Commerce) retaining his services to document and collect economic development loans made with Community Development Block Grant funds. In that capacity, he has documented and collected economic development loans made by cities and counties all over the State of Michigan. He also is an author of an article on the use of development agreements which was published in Michigan Municipal Review.

Mr. King is also an expert in the assessment and collection of real and personal property taxes, special assessments, water and wastewater service charges and other municipal charges in bankruptcy. As a result of his expertise in this area, he was invited to speak on collection of real and personal property taxes in bankruptcy at a spring meeting of the American Bar Association's Business Law Section. He was recently lead counsel in, and was successful in defending two matters involving challenges to the Michigan Tax Foreclosure Statute in the United States Supreme Court: *Wayside Church et al v Van Buren County Treasurer*, 17-88; and *2 Crooked Creek, LLC v Cass County Treasurer*, 17-169.

Mr. King is a frequent speaker on municipal issues. He has presented seminars on real and personal property tax assessment and collection, the Michigan Freedom of Information Act, and collection of claims in bankruptcy.

EDUCATION SESSION – TREASURERS PANEL

Catherine McClary

Ken Parrish

Brad Slagh

After obtaining an undergraduate degree from Hope College in Holland Michigan, Brad spent 18 years in the financial services industry working for two banks in the Holland & Grand Rapids markets. In 2007, after twice being elected Supervisor of Zeeland Township, he was appointed County Treasurer, and has since won the last three elections as Treasurer. Brad is a licensed real estate sales person and is the managing partner of a small property management business. As a 2007 graduate of the Michigan Political Leadership Program Brad believes there are real leaders on both sides of the aisle that we need to elect into office to help move Michigan forward. For the 2018 election cycle, Brad is the only declared candidate seeking to be elected as the 90th District Representative to the Michigan State House.

Sherry Comben

Charles A. Lawler

Member

Charles A. Lawler (Charley) is a member based in Clark Hill's Lansing, Michigan office. Clark Hill PLC is a top full-service law firm serving clients in all areas of business legal services, government and public affairs and personal legal services. Since 1890, our firm has proudly represented a diverse array of clients - from individuals and new entities to Fortune 500 corporations. With well over 300 attorneys in 12 markets nationwide, Clark Hill consistently delivers the results and solutions that our clients have come to trust.

Prior to joining Clark Hill, Charley was involved in private business as both an owner and manager where he gained personal experience in identifying and resolving legal issues facing business owners. Charley's prior business ownership provides his client's the opportunity to engage an attorney who has real first hand business experience he can bring to their issues. Along with being an attorney and advisor, he is a business problem solver. Charley is fully experienced in civil and commercial litigation proceedings including bankruptcy, real estate, creditor's rights, property tax and construction matters.

His business experience includes lease negotiations, human resource issues, marketing, product procurement, bank negotiations, managing litigation, community relations, insurance procurement, and other issues necessary to manage a business.

Charley received his B.A., with honors, from Michigan State University and received his J.D., cum laude, from Michigan State University College of Law.

Charley is admitted to practice in Michigan, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan and U.S. District Court for the Western District of Michigan. Charley is a member of the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Michigan, and the Ingham County Bar Association.

Charley and his wife Karen have two children, Stephen and MacKenzie.

Practices, Industries & Services

Construction
Education
Franchise & Licensing
Litigation
Municipal Law

Areas of Emphasis

Commercial Litigation
Property Tax Services

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- State Bar of Michigan
- Ingham County Bar Association



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Education

J.D., cum laude, Michigan State University College of Law, East Lansing, Michigan, 2004

B.A., With honors, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Michigan, 1977

State Bar Licenses

Michigan

Court Admissions

U.S. District Ct., E.D. of Michigan
U.S. District Ct., W.D. of Michigan

John R. Axe

Senior Counsel

John R. Axe is a member of Clark Hill's Education and Municipal Law Practice Group.

John is often hired for his experience in preparing statutory solutions to problems which cannot be solved under current law. Examples of this type of successful law change include:

- a. In 1972 the Michigan Supreme Court ruled that an existing statute (which had authorized bond projects through building authorities for more than 25 years) was unconstitutional. He wrote creative legislation which he successfully lobbied through the Michigan legislature in four months so this type of financing could proceed again.
- b. In 1978 the Michigan Constitution was amended to prohibit non-voted unlimited tax bonds. In the period between the adoption of the new constitutional provision and the effective date of the constitutional change, he wrote and successfully lobbied through the legislature a statute which permitted borrowings secured by a "Limited Tax" and the issuer's general funds. Thereafter these bonds were known and successfully marketed as "General Obligation Limited Tax Bonds". Because of this prompt action, municipal projects which would have been stalled by the new constitutional provision were not delayed.

John has prepared either as lead draftsman, or as co-draftsman, the following statutes which authorize the issuance of municipal bonds in Michigan:

- The amendment to Public Act 206 of 1893 in 1975, which permitted counties to issue general obligation delinquent tax notes secured by the collection of delinquent taxes.
- The amendment to the Municipal Finance Act in 1982, which permitted municipalities to issue bonds and notes without the prior approval of the Municipal Finance Commission.
- The amendment to Act 34 of the Public Acts of 2001, which permitted municipalities to issue pension and retirees health care obligation bonds.
- The amendment to Act 206 of the Public Acts of 1893, and the amendment to Act 94 of the Public Acts of 1933, adopted in April of 2016, which permitted counties to issue delinquent tax revenue notes.



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Practice Areas

Municipal Law
Public Finance

Industries

Education

Education

LL.B., Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1963

B.A., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1960

State Bar Licenses

Michigan

Membership

John has also successfully argued a case in the Michigan Supreme Court which permitted the Michigan State Highway Commission to issue transportation bonds for mass transit and railroad purposes. Also, in 2008, in order to permit the creation of a new non-profit corporation which would permit the construction of a light rail system in downtown Detroit (and perhaps beyond), John drafted and successfully lobbied through legislature the law under which M-1 Rail is currently being constructed without any local and state support.

In addition to his experience as a practicing bond attorney and financial consultant in municipal issues, John is a co-author of Michigan Municipal Law, a two-volume work published in 1981 by the Institute of Continuing Legal Education for the University of Michigan. In 1992, he was appointed as a member of the Permanent Adjunct Faculty of the Wayne State University Law School where he teaches public finance. John also served a three year term on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Bond Lawyers (NABL), the first Michigan lawyer ever to serve in this capacity. He has served on the Steering Committees for NABL's Bond Attorney's Workshop in the years 1980, 1981, 1983, 1986, 1989 and 1990. He continues to serve on the Workshop faculty.

National Association of Bond Lawyers

Grosse Pointe Library Foundation, Active on Board

Clements Library at the University of Michigan, Active on Board

Michigan History Foundation, Active on Board

Covenant House, Active on Board

Newsletter Alerts

Will Tax Reform's Elimination of Advance Refundings Usher in a New Era of Municipal Derivatives?

News

Clark Hill PLC Partners With Plante Moran to Present School Law and Finance Seminar on January 21, 2017

Axe & Ecklund Joins Clark Hill

Presentations

January 21, 2017 Clark Hill & Plante Moran School Law & Finance Seminar Presentation