

Catherine M. (Kate) Harper

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Partner

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Successful outcomes depend on understanding the client's objectives and then pursuing the strategies -- at once both creative and pragmatic -- to satisfy them.



Catherine M. (Kate) Harper, a partner at Timoney Knox since 1997, was also a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in the House of Representatives, representing eastern Montgomery County for eighteen years. Ms. Harper has a general practice, but focuses on land use (particularly municipal, conservation and zoning law), real estate and civil litigation in Bucks and Montgomery Counties.

She has argued before the Supreme Court of the United States, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, all of the Pennsylvania appellate courts and the county courts in southeastern Pennsylvania.

Kate also represents land trusts, landowners and conservancies in preservation projects and enforcement of conservation easements.

Ms. Harper is experienced in the many facets of municipal law, having represented Upper Moreland Township, the Milford Zoning Hearing Board (Bucks County) and Hatfield Borough, and has served as Solicitor for Plumstead Township, the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board (Montgomery County), and Perkasio Borough. In addition, Ms. Harper has served as Special Solicitor to Buckingham Township Zoning Hearing Board. She has also served as Special Counsel in Upper Salford and Lower Gwynedd Townships and previously represented the Horsham Water Authority in Montgomery County. She was a member and Chair of the Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors for 13 years.

Areas of Practice

- Municipal Law
- Real Estate and Zoning Law
- Commercial and Civil Litigation
- Family Law
- Personal Injury Law

Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 1981
- U.S. District Court Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1982
- U.S. Court of Appeals 3rd Circuit, 1982
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1986

Education

- Villanova University School of Law, Villanova, Pennsylvania, J.D., 1981
- LaSalle University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, James J. Finnegan Award, Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, *maximus cum laude*, Deborah Award, 1978

In the Legislature, Ms. Harper served as Chair of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Local Government Committee and on the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission.

With extensive experience in environmental issues, Kate served on the Environmental Hearing Board Rules Committee and was Vice-Chair of the Montgomery County Planning Commission and the Schuylkill Greenway Study Commission. She chaired the Montgomery County Open Space Planning Board and helped write the county's Open Space Plan. She is past Chair and a founding member of the Montgomery County Lands Trust, a member of the Delaware River Regional Water Planning Committee, and was appointed by former Gov. Ed Rendell to the Statewide Water Resources Committee. She was a past member of the Board of Directors of 10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania, a statewide organization devoted to revitalizing urban areas and growth management in suburban and rural areas.

Ms. Harper is a past president of the Montgomery County Association of Township Officials, and past Resolutions Chairman for the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors. In 1999, she received the PA State Association of Township Supervisors' Leadership Award, in 2000, the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce Athena Award and in 2001, the Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence. In 2016, Kate was honored with the Montgomery Bar Association's *Margaret Richardson Women In Law Trailblazer* award. Ms. Harper has won numerous awards from environmental organizations for her advocacy work.

As a past Chairman of the Montgomery Bar Association Long Range Planning Committee, a past member of the Bar's Board of Directors, and a current member of the Montgomery Bar Foundation, Ms. Harper also frequently lectures on conservation, municipal, environmental, land use, open space and planning topics to lawyers, conservation groups and public officials. In addition, she is frequently called upon to discuss work-life balance and combining a demanding career with parenting.

Ms. Harper, who graduated *maxima cum laude* with a degree in political science from LaSalle University, was named to Who's Who in American Colleges. She earned her law degree from the Villanova University School of Law in 1981.

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Harper**

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Representative Matters

- Kreamer v. Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Ambler (Ambler Savings Bank), 2015 Pa. Cmmwlth, unpublished LEXIS 148, 109 A3d 372 (2015)
- T.H. Properties, L.P. v. Upper Salford Board of Supervisors, 970 A.2d 495 (Pa. Cmwlt 2018)
- Miller & Son Paving, Inc. v. Plumstead Township, 717 A.2d 483 (PA 1998)
- Berman v. Board of Commissioners, 147 Pa.Cmwlt 405, 608 A.2d 585 (1992)
- Pennsylvania v. Finley, 107 S.Ct. 1990, 481 US 551, 95 L.ed 2d 539 (U.S. Sup. 1987)
- Appeal of Senft from Lower Merion Zoning Hearing Board, 31 Pa D&C 3d 578 (1983)

Classes/Seminars Taught

- Presenter, Land Trust Alliance Workshop on "Tackling Trespassers," 2018
- Presenter, Montgomery Bar Association Real Estate Committee: Seminar on Public Ownership Issues in Real Estate, 2018
- Faculty Member, "Environmental Law Forum," PBI Seminar on Land Use and Zoning Updates, every year from 2013-2018
- Presenter, "Women In Law: Managing Work Life Balance," Montgomery Bar Association, 2017
- Presenter, Penn Future, On the PA Environmental Rights Amendment, 2017
- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code: Today and Tomorrow, Montgomery Bar Association, 2015