

## Catherine M. (Kate) Harper

Fort Washington, Pennsylvania  
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 litigation practice, but focuses on land use (particularly municipal, conservation and zoning law) and real estate in Southeastern Pennsylvania. She handles commercial litigation, contract disputes and employment law matters for entrepreneurs, families and small businesses.

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

Kate represents local governments, zoning boards and land development applicants. She also represents land trusts, landowners and conservancies in preservation projects and drafting and enforcing of conservation easements.

Kate is experienced in the many facets of municipal law, having represented Upper Moreland Township, the Milford Township (Bucks County) and Hatfield Borough for years, and has served as Solicitor for the Milford (Bucks County) Zoning Hearing Board, 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 and Upper Salford and Lower Gwynedd Townships. She previously represented the Horsham Water Authority in

### Areas of Practice

- Municipal Law
- Real Estate and Zoning Law
- Commercial and Civil Litigation
- Family Law
- Employment Law

### Bar Admissions

- Pennsylvania, 1981
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1982
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, 1982
- U.S. Supreme Court, 1986

### Education

- Villanova University School of Law, J.D., 1981
- LaSalle University, 1978

Montgomery County. She was a member and Chair of the Lower Gwynedd Township Board of Supervisors for 13 years.

In the Pennsylvania Legislature for 18 years, Kate 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. Currently, Ms. Harper is a member of the Board of Directors of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation Board, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association Board and the Montgomery County Foundation Board.

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 including, most recently, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Curtin Winsor Award for lifetime achievement in policy and land conservation.

Kate currently serves on the Montgomery Bar Association Foundation and Chaired the MBA Long Range Planning Committee, and is a past member of the Bar's Board of Directors. Ms. Harper also frequently lectures on conservation, municipal, environmental, land use, open space legislation 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.



**Catherine M. "Kate"  
Harper**

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### **Representative Matters**

- Upper Salford Township v. Zoning Hearing Board of Upper Salford Township and Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless, Commonwealth Court Nos. 883 CD 2019 and 1162 CD 2019
- T.H. Properties, L.P. v. Upper Salford Board of Supervisors, 970 A.2d 495 (Pa. Cmwlth 2018)
- Kreamer v. Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Ambler (Ambler Savings Bank), 2015 Pa. Cmmwlth, unpublished LEXIS 148, 109 A3d 372 (2015)
- Miller & Son Paving, Inc. v. Plumstead Township, 717 A.2d 483 (PA 1998)
- Berman v. Board of Commissioners, 147 Pa.Cmwlth 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**

- Faculty Member, "Environmental Law Forum," PBI Seminar on Land Use and Zoning Updates, every year from 2013-2019
- 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
- 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