

## 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, is also a member of the Pennsylvania General Assembly in the House of Representatives, representing eastern Montgomery County. 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.

Ms. Harper is experienced in the many facets of municipal law, representing 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 Perkasie 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.

As the current Chair of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives Local Government Committee, Kate also serves on the Pennsylvania Local Government Commission.

### 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

With extensive experience in environmental issues, Ms. Harper 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.

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 Community Outreach Committee, Ms. Harper also frequently lectures on municipal, environmental, land use, open space and planning topics to lawyers and public officials.

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**

- Pennsylvania v. Finley, 107 S.Ct. 1990, 481 US 551, 95 L.ed 2d 539 (U.S. Sup. 1987)
- Miller & Son Paving, Inc. v. Plumstead Township, 717 A.2d 483 (PA 1998)

- Kreamer v. Zoning Hearing Board of the Borough of Ambler (Ambler Savings Bank), 2015 Pa. Cmmwlth, unpublished LEXIS 148, 109 A3d 372 (2015)
- Appeal of Senft from Lower Merion Zoning Hearing Board, 31 Pa D&C 3d 578 (1983)
- Berman v. Board of Commissioners, 147 Pa.CmwltH 405, 608 A.2d 585 (1992)

#### **Classes/Seminars Taught**

- Faculty Member, "Environmental Law Forum," PBI Seminar 2013-2016
- "Developments in Pennsylvania Land Use Law: A Survey of 2015 Cases," PBI Environmental Law Forum, 2016
- The Pennsylvania Municipalities Planning Code: Today and Tomorrow, Montgomery Bar Association, 2015
- "Developments in Pennsylvania Land Use Law: A Survey of 2014 Cases," PBI Environmental Law Forum, 2015
- "Developments in Pennsylvania Land Use Law: A Survey of 2013 Cases," PBI Environmental Law Forum, 2014