

WILLIAM L. CAPLAN

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ASSISTANT
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AREAS OF PRACTICE
Business
Environmental
Real Estate & Construction



I serve as general counsel and a trusted business advisor to many successful businesses of varying size, scope and complexity. Because I have both a law degree and an MBA in finance, clients rely upon me to assist them in the development of innovative solutions to oftentimes vexing business problems. I invest time to learn my clients' strategies, long-term goals and methods of doing business which enables me to provide sophisticated legal advice and tailor appropriate legal and business solutions.

Businesses look to me for legal guidance in connection with such areas as entity formation and structure, shareholder and governance issues, trade secret protection, executive compensation, contractual matters, sales and purchases of businesses, and those difficult environmental compliance matters that impact the operation and structure of businesses and business transactions. I represent numerous manufacturers, distributors, and sales and service concerns. My leadership roles in community organizations have also afforded me the opportunity to forge valuable business and community relationships that enhance my service to clients. I focus consistently upon great client service, teamwork, excellence and results.

EXPERIENCE

- Focuses in the areas of corporate, business succession, mergers and acquisitions, and environmental law
- Joined the firm as an associate attorney in 1980; was elected partner in 1987
- Served as the head of the firm's corporate and business law department
- Served as a member of the firm's board of directors
- Served as chairman of the firm's executive committee
- Served as the partner-in-charge of firm's Akron office
- Served as head of the firm's environmental law practice

EDUCATION & ADMISSIONS

The University of Cincinnati College of Law, Cincinnati, Ohio (J.D., 1980) (Order of the Barrister)

The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio (M.B.A., 1976; B.S., 1973)

Admissions

Ohio Bar (1980)

U.S. District Court, Northern District of Ohio

U.S. Court of International Trade

AWARDS & HONORS

Listed in Best Lawyers in America® (2009-2024)

Named as a Best Lawyers in America® 'Lawyer of the Year' 2015 in Akron for Environmental Law, 2022 in Akron for Real Estate Law

Selected for inclusion in Ohio's Super Lawyers® (2004-2006), as voted by his peers
Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rating of AV® Preeminent™, which is the highest possible rating in both legal and ethical standards as established by confidential opinions from members of the Bar.

PROFESSIONAL & CIVIC INVOLVEMENT

Community Campaign Chairperson 2016: United Way of Summit County

Member, Board of Trustees: United Way of Summit County

Member, Board of Trustees: American Heart Association, Great Rivers Affiliate

Member: College of Business Administration's Advancement Council at the University of Akron

Co-Trustee of the Lloyd and Louise K. Smith Foundation

Co-Trustee of the Laura and Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation

Member: Proudly Cincinnati Campaign Leadership Committee for the Cleveland Region

Fellow, Akron Bar Association

Member: Bluecoats Incorporated

Past Affiliations

Adjunct Professor: The University of Akron School of Law; Environmental Aspects of Real Estate Transactions

Member: Executive Committee of Jewish Family Services

Trustee: Akron Jewish Community Foundation

Chairman: College of Business Administration's Advancement Council at the University of Akron

Chairman of the Environmental Law Committee of the Akron Bar Association

Member: Editorial Advisory Board of the Environmental Law Journal of Ohio

Trustee: Junior Achievement

Member: University of Akron Foundation, College Centered Committee

Graduate: Leadership Akron, Class VI (1990)

Associations

Member: Akron Bar Association

Member: American Bar Association

Member: Ohio State Bar Association