



Catherine M. (Kate) Harper

Partner

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Areas of Practice

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

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, B.S., Political Science, 1978

Honors and Awards

- Pennsylvania Environmental Council's Curtin Winsor Award, 2019

Bio

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. Kate 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, Upper Salford Zoning Hearing Board, Plumstead Township, the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board (Montgomery County), and Perkasio Borough. In addition, Kate 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

- Pennsylvania Super Lawyers, 2012-2016, 2019 – 2022
- Margaret Richardson Women In Law Trailblazer, Montgomery Bar Association, 2016
- Governmental Award, PA Park and Recreation Society, 2008, 2013
- Conservation Champion, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, 2015
- Conservation Leadership Award, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, 2011
- President's Award, Pennsylvania Association for Justice, 2011
- Legislator of the Year, Pennsylvania Community Associations Institute, 2006
- Citizen of the Year, Lower Gwynedd Township, 2006
- Distinguished Service Award, Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association, 2005
- Leadership Award, Pennsylvania Land Trust Association, 2003
- Governor's Award for Local Government Excellence, 2001
- Special Achievement Award, Montgomery Bar Association, 2000
- Athena Award, Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, 2000
- President's Leadership Award, Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors, 1999
- LaSalle University, James J. Finnegan Award, Alpha Epsilon Honor Society,

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, and served on the Transportation Committee. In the legislature, Kate Co-Chaired the Bi-Partisan Breakfast Club.

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 re-approved by Governor Tom Wolf to the state-wide Water Resources Committee and served as Vice Chair. Kate is 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.

Kate 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. Kate 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. Kate 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.

maximus cum laude, Deborah Award, 1978

Professional Associations

- Environmental Hearing Rules Committee, Past Member
- Montgomery County Association of Township Officials, Former President
- Pennsylvania Bar Association, Member
- Montgomery Bar Foundation, President
- Montgomery Bar Association, Member
- PA Local Government Commission, Former Member
- PA State Association of Township Supervisors, Former Resolutions Chair

Community

Involvement

- Wissahickon Trails, Board of Directors
- Montgomery County Foundation, Board Member
- Co-Chair, Korean/American War and Peace Memoriam Committee, Montgomery Township
- Montgomery County Lands Trust, Past Chairman, Board of Directors
- Gwynedd Mercy Academy Elementary School, Board of Trustees, Former Member
- Statewide Water Resources Committee, Vice Chair

Kate, 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.

Ratings & Certifications



Representative Matters

- Conshohocken Borough v. Conshohocken Zoning Hearing Board, 261 A. 2d 582 (Pa. Cmwlt 2021)
- 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
- 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, "Validity Challenges for Unique Land Uses," PBI Seminar, Land Use Institute, 2022
- Presenter, "Recreational Use of Land and Water Act," We Conserve PA Conference, 2021

- Delaware River Regional Water Planning Committee, Member
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- Presenter, "Spot Zoning," Montgomery Bar Association, Real Estate Committee, 2021
- Presenter, "Walking a Tightrope: Managing Your Job, Business, & Kids Simultaneously," Eastern Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce, 2020
- Faculty Member, "Environmental Law Forum," PBI Seminar on Land Use and Zoning Updates, every year from 2013-2022
- 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

CONTACT US

Have questions? Call us at 215.646.6000 or visit us online at timoneyknox.com