

CHARLES F. BEHLER

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PRACTICES

Government Law

Construction Law

Commercial Litigation

Legal Malpractice

Motorcycle Crash Litigation

EDUCATION

University of Denver (B.A., 1969; J.D., 1971)

OF COUNSEL

Chip Behler is a seasoned “bet-the-company” litigator who successfully represents governmental agencies, businesses, construction contractors, design professionals, and real estate owners and developers in complex commercial litigation and matters involving personal injury, real estate, breach of contract claims, construction defects, construction accidents, architectural and engineering intellectual property issues, and employment claims. He also is a well-regarded counselor with extensive experience in risk avoidance and contract drafting and negotiation for those in government and the construction industry. Chip is regularly sought after to defend lawyers and law firms against claims of legal malpractice, malicious prosecution, and other related issues. In addition, Chip is a certified commercial and construction arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association.

Chip’s honors include being listed in “Michigan Super Lawyers”, “Best Lawyers in America”, Benchmark Litigation, and he is AV Peer Review Rated by Martindale-Hubbell.

Chip has a passion for motorcycling and has ridden to all 49 continental states, nine Canadian provinces, and much of Europe. In addition to decades and hundreds of thousands of miles of riding experience, he has had extensive training including attendance at Motorcycle Safety Foundation courses, the Ride Like a Pro class, police motorcycle training, and Superbike School. Chip represents plaintiffs, defendants, and governmental roadway authorities in motorcycle crash litigation throughout the state of Michigan.

In addition to motorcycling, Chip enjoys cooking, wine collecting, golf, snow skiing, the arts, and spending time with his family. He has two adult sons, both of whom are married, and five grandchildren.

ADMITTED

1972, Michigan.

NOTEWORTHY

Listed in Benchmark Litigation 2010-2016

Listed in Best Lawyers (2001-2021) -- Bet-the-Company Litigation, Commercial Litigation and Construction Law

Listed in Best Lawyers (2022-2024) -- Commercial Litigation, Construction Law, and Litigation - Construction

Best Lawyers Construction Lawyer of the Year (2013), Litigation-Construction Lawyer of the Year (2020)

Listed as Grand Rapids Magazine "Top Lawyer" - Litigation Construction (2021, 2022)

Listed in Leading Lawyers -- Medical Malpractice Defense Law; ADR Law: Commercial Litigation; ADR Law: Commercial Real Estate, Environmental & Construction

Listed as a "Michigan Super Lawyer" (2006-2018) -- Construction/Surety

Listed as a "Michigan Super Lawyer" (2020, 2022) -- Business Litigation

Listed as a "Local Litigation Star" in Benchmark Litigation (2010-2015) -- Commercial Litigation

AV Peer Review Rated, Martindale-Hubbell

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association (Member, Sections: Forum on Construction Industry; Litigation; Government and Public Sector Lawyers)

State Bar of Michigan (Member, Sections on: Litigation; Negligence Law; Public Corporation Law; Law Practice Management. Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Character & Fitness, 1989-1991; Member, 1984-1991)

Fellow, Michigan Bar Foundation

Grand Rapids Bar Association (Member, Diversity Committee)

Member, National Roster of Arbitrators and Mediators, American Arbitration Association
Defense Research Institute

Michigan Defense Trial Counsel

Board of Law Examiners, State of Michigan, 1995-2005

Professional Affiliate, Michigan Society of Architects

Associate Member, American Institute of Architects

COMMUNITY AFFILIATIONS

Major Gifts Committee, West Michigan Literacy Center

Co-Chair, Make-a-Wish Foundation 2012 Wish Ball

Co-Chair, Grand Rapids Ballet Capital Campaign

Co-Chair, 2011 "Twilight Series" Gala for Senior Neighbors

Member, Board of Directors, Literacy Center of West Michigan

Member, Board of Directors, Conductive Learning Center

Member, Rotary Club of Grand Rapids

Member, Grand Rapids Economic Club

Co-Chair, Great Artist Gala, St. Cecilia Music Society, 2009

Member, Board of Directors, St. Cecilia Music Society



Member, Board of Directors, Legal Assistance Center
Member, Board of Directors, Grand Rapids Civic Theatre
Member, Board of Directors, Blythefield Country Club
Member, East Grand Rapids Recreation Commission
Board Member and President, Grand Rapids Ballet
Member, Grand Valley Blood Program Board of Trustees
Chairperson, American Cancer Society, Kent County Chapter, Campaign Committee
Member, Crime Prevention Committee, Grand Rapids Chamber of Commerce
Member, National Ski Patrol Systems, Inc., Outstanding Auxiliary Ski Patroller in United States

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Kent County, Michigan, 1972-1973