DrummondWoodsum

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Matthew R. Serge

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Bio

Matt Serge is the Practice Group Leader for the Municipal Group in New Hampshire. He focuses his practice on serving the legal needs of towns and cities on the full spectrum of municipal law issues including land use matters, zoning enforcement actions, New Hampshire's Right to Know Law, welfare assistance, tax abatements, real estate, elections, contracts, employment matters, and government relations. Matt regularly represents clients before state and federal trial and appellate courts, and administrative boards.

Matt's successes in the courtroom are notable. He successfully represented a town in a 9-day trial in which a property owner was found liable for numerous zoning violations. Matt also successfully defended a town planning board, a case in which Matt broke new legal ground and prevailed on appeal before the New Hampshire Supreme Court. Similarly, Matt helped set legal precedent and prevailed on appeal in a case involving variances for telecommunication facilities.

Matt has been recognized by Best Lawyers USA in Municipal Litigation, and by New England Super Lawyers, in State, Local & Municipal, Appellate, General Litigation. Matt authored the current *Code Enforcement Handbook* published by the New Hampshire Municipal Association, as well as two articles in the *NH Bar Journal*. He also was a member of the inaugural class of the New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy. Sought after for his municipal law expertise, Matt is often invited to speak at trainings and seminars.

In his free time, Matt enjoys playing the guitar – he has been a musician since he was in the 9th grade – and hiking, climbing, and backpacking. Deeply dedicated to his community, Matt serves on the Board of

Practice Areas

Municipal Law

Admissions

New Hampshire
U.S. Court of Appeals for the First Circuit
U.S. District Court for the District of New Hampshire

Directors for Friends of Tuckerman Ravine.

Education

New England School of Law, J.D., *summa cum laude*, 1999

University of Massachusetts, Lowell, B.A., *cum laude*, 1996

Judicial Clerkships

- Hon. Linda S. Dalianias, New Hampshire Supreme Court, 2001-2003
- New Hampshire Superior Court, 1999-2001

Recognition

Best Lawyers USA, Litigation – Municipal 2016-2026

New England Super Lawyers, State, Local & Municipal, Appellate, General Litigation, Rising Star 2011-2014

New Hampshire Bar Association Leadership Academy

Publications

Co-author, *Code Enforcement Handbook*, published by the New Hampshire Municipal Association

Author, "The Doctrine of Vested Rights – A Brief Survey," *NH Bar Journal* (Fall 2007)

Author, "Carlson's Chrysler v. City of Concord – The New Hampshire Supreme Court's Foray in the World of Sign Regulation," *NH Bar Journal* (January 2008)

Representative Clients & Matters

Town of North Hampton v. Jones – Successfully litigated a 9-day trial in which the defendant was found liable for numerous zoning violations. The case involved extensive discovery, including over 10 depositions, as well as hundreds of exhibits.

CBDA Development v. Town of Thornton – Successfully defended the Town of Thornton Planning Board before the NH Supreme Court and, in doing so, established the first extension of the Fisher v Dover legal doctrine (which provides that Zoning Boards of Adjustment are not required to review matters that were previously denied) to apply to Planning Board decisions.

Daniels v. Town of Londonderry – Successfully defended the Town of Londonderry Zoning Board of Adjustment before the NH Supreme Court

and, in doing so, established new precedent for how to integrate federal regulations into the analysis of variance applications for telecommunications facilities.

Memberships

New Hampshire Association for Justice

American Inns of Court
Member, 2005-2013

New Hampshire Bar Journal Editorial Board
Member, 2005-2012; Chairman, 2010-2012

New Hampshire Board of Bar Examiners
Daniel Webster Scholar Program, 2009-2015

American Bar Association
Member

Community/Public Service

Bedford Youth Soccer League
Volunteer Coach

Friends of Tuckerman Ravine
Member of Advisory Board (former President of Board of Directors)

Grace Episcopal Church
Church Vestry Member (2015 – 2021)
Church Choir (2010 – 2015)