

Jason R. Gabriel
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Profile

Attorney

City, County & Local Government Law; Constitutional Law; Land Use & Zoning; Elections Law; Ethics; Sunshine Law; Public Records Law; Public Finance; Procurement and Contracts; Eminent Domain; Civil Rights; Employment and Labor; Public Sector Liability; Sovereign Immunity; Home Rule; Community Redevelopment; Commercial Real Estate; Corporate & Financial Transactions; General Litigation.

- Board Certified Specialist by the Florida Bar in City, County & Local Government Law
- AV Preeminent® Peer Review Rating™ by Martindale-Hubbell®
- Recognized as a Legal Elite™ Attorney by *Florida Trend Magazine*
- Admitted to the Florida Bar - April 2002
- Admitted to the United States District Court, Middle District of Florida
- Leadership Jacksonville 2017
- Leadership Florida 2018

Professional Experience

City of Jacksonville, Office of General Counsel • March 2010 – Present

- General Counsel

CITY, COUNTY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW: General Counsel to Jacksonville's \$5 billion-a-year plus consolidated government, including serving as Chief Legal Advisor to: (i) thirty-two elected officials; (ii) the independent agencies; (iii) all boards and commissions of the City; and (iv) all departments and divisions of the Executive Branch and the Legislative Branch.

Areas of law include complex subject matters at the core of government operations: sovereign immunity, civil rights, employment and labor matters, pension law, elections, sunshine and public records law, procurement, land use, mobility and transportation, community redevelopment, port initiatives, utilities law, real estate, environmental law, public finance, ethics and constitutional law.

Substantial work with the elected officials, appointed officials, executive directors and boards of the independent agencies, directors and deputies of the Executive Branch departments and divisions. Oversight, management and review of attorney work-product including litigation, legislation, transactions, contracts, agreements and opinions. Representation of, and counsel to all elements and aspects of the consolidated government.

- Deputy General Counsel, Government Operations

CITY, COUNTY & LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW: Chief attorney for the Government Operations Department of the Office of General Counsel. Lead counsel and advisor to the Mayor's office, City Council and various City boards, commissions, authorities, divisions and departments including the Planning and Development Department, Downtown Investment Authority, Ethics Commission, JEA, JAA and JPA. Provided counsel and expertise with regard to a variety of federal, state and local government legal questions, including but not limited to, Sunshine Law, Ethics, Land Use and Zoning matters, Community Redevelopment, Economic Development, Contracts, Procurement, Real Estate Acquisition, Disposition, and Development, Legislative Initiatives, Administrative Procedures, State and Federal compliance, Constitutional matters, Civil Rights and Labor and Employment issues. Representation of the constitutional officers such as the Supervisor of Elections and Clerk of the Courts in elections and transactional matters. Counsel for various City committees and boards including City's Planning Commission, Tower Review Committee, Downtown Investment Authority, Reapportionment/Redistricting Committee, City Council's Land Use and Zoning Committee, Jacksonville Public Library Board of Trustees, and other Task Forces and Committees.

LAND USE & ZONING: Lead counsel to City Council, Council Committees, Planning Commission, Planning and Development Department and various City agencies in all phases of land use, zoning, development and preservation matters. Legal counsel and advisor at quasi-judicial and legislative hearings, including Planning Commission, Council Committee(s) and City Council meetings. Alternative dispute and mediation resolutions. Representation of City in Division of Administrative Hearing proceedings. Counsel in litigation-related matters. Counsel and advice to governmental agencies in the development of innovative solutions to a wide range of land use and development issues. Representation of JEA in various utility-related matters, including real estate transactions, energy siting and zoning matters. Counsel to Tower Review Committee regarding cellular tower zoning matters.

TRANSACTIONS: Preparation, negotiation, drafting and administration of various City contracts, including employment agreements, economic development agreements, community redevelopment agreements, joint partnerships, mobility and transportation-related development agreements, procurement, professional services and real estate acquisition.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT: Lead counsel to the Downtown Investment Authority and the Jacksonville International Airport Community Redevelopment Agency in matters ranging from economic development, incentive and redevelopment agreements, retail enhancement projects, infill development, community redevelopment and related land use matters.

ELECTIONS: Lead counsel to the Supervisor of Elections regarding all elections law matters.

ETHICS: Lead counsel to various City boards, committees, departments, officers and employees regarding a range of ethics and governance matters. Counsel to the Jacksonville Ethics Commission. Best practices and ethics training. Representation of officials and employees before the State Commission on Ethics.

Edwards Cohen • March 2002 – March 2010

- Senior Associate - Land Use, Zoning, Real Estate, Finance, Corporate Transactions

LAND USE & ZONING: Representation of clients in all phases of land use, zoning and permitting matters. Counsel pertaining to permitting, concurrency, lobbying, legal and political matters. Presentation at quasi-judicial and legislative hearings. Alternative dispute and mediation resolutions. Extensive experience with retail developments, large-scale commercial retailers, and mixed-use projects. Professional expertise and personal relationships to effectively guide clients through the complex web of both local and state land use regulations. Close cooperation with governmental agencies in developing innovative solutions to a wide range of land use and development issues. Counsel in all phases of development: planning the project; presenting it to key stakeholders, staff and agencies; and preparing the requisite legal record to preserve the client's position in a court of law, should the need arise.

AGENCY REPRESENTATION: Counsel for governmental agencies in North Florida in a variety of roles, in connection with real estate acquisition and disposition, electric power plant projects, development and co-development, legislative efforts, administrative procedures, state and federal compliance, legislative initiatives, and constitutional matters.

COMMERCIAL REAL ESTATE & CORPORATE TRANSACTIONS: Representation of clients in all phases of commercial real estate law. Counsel to all negotiations, complex commercial land acquisitions, contractual matters. Complex commercial leasing (office, retail and industrial), landlord and tenant issues. Due diligence, environmental analysis, title review and opinion, closings. Production of construction, engineering, architectural and other professional service contracts. Formation of business entities. Consultation with respect to segregation of operations, and protection of assets. Acquisitions and dispositions of business assets.

FINANCING: Real estate based financing. Loan transactions involving the acquisition and construction of retail, office buildings, industrial/warehouse, apartments, and residential properties. Due diligence services, drafting and negotiation of loan documentation.

8th Judicial Circuit • Spring Semester 2001

- Judicial Clerk

Judicial Law Clerk for the Honorable Toby S. Monaco, Circuit Court. Prepared orders, memorandums of law, and judicial summaries for hearings and trial.

Education

University of Florida College of Law • December 2001

Juris Doctor: Dean's List; Legal Research & Writing Honors; Appellate Advocacy Honors; Legal Research & Writing Teacher's Assistant; Appellate Advocacy Teacher's Assistant; President's Honor Roll

University of Florida • May 1998

Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), Cum Laude: Dean's List; Golden Key National Honor Society; President's Honor Roll

Lecture Experience

Various orientations, lectures and seminars regarding Local Government Law issues including but not limited to State and Local Government Law, Home Rule, Land Use and Zoning matters, Ethics and Elections; Author and presenter at the various Elected Official Orientation programs; Fundamentals of Real Estate Closings in Florida, Presenter, March 18, 2008; Appellate Advocacy Teaching Assistant; University of Florida College of Law, 2001; Legal Research & Writing Teaching Assistant; University of Florida College of Law, 2000.

Special Attributes

Lived abroad for approximately 8 years in the UAE, Kuwait and Turkey. Traveled Europe and the Middle East. I enjoy family, film, music, writing, reading, traveling and football. I speak Arabic.