

Mark S. Lenz

THOMPSON COBURN LLP

Mark Lenz focuses his practice on public finance, real estate and public law. His client base includes local units of government as well as private sector developers seeking public financing to support a private sector project.

Distinction

Mark Lenz' experience covers a wide range of real estate and public finance matters. He has represented for profit and not for profit entities in the development of multi-family and senior housing, often utilizing tax credits and financing (low interest loans and grants) provided by government and private foundations. He created the legal framework for the City of Chicago's New Homes for Chicago, Green Homes for Chicago and Safe Homes for Kids programs. He also represents developers undertaking mixed-use (commercial and residential) projects utilizing tax increment financing, grants and low-interest loans.

While working with the City of Chicago Corporation Counsel's Office, he represented the City regarding several major redevelopment projects in the City's Loop which were public/private development projects whereby the City provided tax increment financing and other incentives. These projects include the Goodman Theatre, the Oriental Theatre, the Hotel Burnham at the Reliance Building and the Hard Rock Hotel at the Carbon and Carbide Building. Both the Reliance Building and the Carbon and Carbide Building are City of Chicago Landmarks and are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

He has assisted municipalities in Illinois and Michigan in promoting economic development initiatives utilizing tax increment financing or a combination of zoning and grants to spur public initiatives such as "green" or sustainable development.

Mark is also able to assist developers seeking to undertake "green" or sustainable projects, advising clients on how to comply with applicable government regulations, structuring construction contracts and identifying incentives provided by the public and private sector.



Primary Practice Areas

- Public Finance and Public Law
- Real Estate Law

Licensure

- Illinois (1986)
- Michigan (2005)

Professional Affiliations

- Chicago Bar Association
- Phi Beta Kappa
- Phi Alpha Delta

Education

- **University of Michigan**
B.A., *magna cum laude*
- **University of Texas**
J.D.

Employment

- **Thompson Coburn LLP**
Partner (2008-Present)
- **Dykema Gossett PLLC**
Member - of Counsel
(2005-2007)
- **Office of Corporation Counsel – City of Chicago**
Assistant Corporation Counsel (1987-2005)

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Civic Involvement

- Member, Board of Directors, West Michigan Sustainable Business Forum
- Member, Mayor Heartwell's Advisory Committee on the Environment, City of Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Member, West Michigan Environmental Action Council
- U.S. Green Building Council, Chicago (Local Government Committee) and West Michigan chapters
- Member of Community Development Committee, The Resurrection Project
- Member, Illinois Nature Conservatory
- Member, Chicago Chapter of Sierra Club
- Contributor, March of Dimes – Chicago Chapter

Speaking Engagements

- "Economic Incentives for Development in Will County (Illinois)" Will County Real Estate Summit (August 4, 2005)
- "Understanding Tax Increment Financing in Illinois" Will County Government Forum (March 9, 2006)
- "Economic Incentives for Building Green" Current Real Estate Issues Forum, September 11, 2007 (Birmingham, Michigan) and September 19, 2007 (Grand Rapids, Michigan)
- "Real Estate Issues When Building Green" Sustainable Strategies for Business, Government, Education and Construction, Wayne County (Michigan) (October 9, 2007)