



Library Law

Foster Swift's representation of public bodies spans several decades. Representation of libraries has become a focus of our municipal practice group. From our various locations, we have developed and expanded continuing client relationships with libraries across Michigan. We currently represent over 65 libraries around the state. Many of our specific experiences are highlighted below. We have extensive experience in the handling of library matters as General Counsel and on a special project basis.

We are familiar with the unique laws that apply to libraries and have assisted in forming many district libraries across Michigan. We have expertise dealing with the employment, real estate and financial issues that are involved in the process. We also understand the specific privacy laws that apply only to libraries, such as the Michigan Library Privacy Act. We have also assisted libraries in developing policies that reflect the unique nature of the library. Please find below some specific examples of issues that we have helped our library clients resolve:

- Drafting district library agreements and assisting with all aspects of the district library formation process.
- Assisting in the formation of township and city libraries.
- Amending existing district library agreements, including adding participating municipalities to existing districts.
- Interpreting the District Library Establishment Act, the District Library Financing Act and the City, Village and Township Libraries Act, 1877 PA 164.
- Drafting millage proposals and educating library boards regarding the application of the Michigan Campaign Finance laws.
- Drafting and implementing patron behavior, Internet use, meeting room and other library policies.
- Addressing board governance issues, including the application of the Open Meetings and Freedom of Information Act.
- Preparing installment purchase agreements, leases, easements and real estate purchase agreements that meet the requirements of the District Library Establishment Act and the District Library Financing Act.
- Creating endowment and gift programs.

ATTORNEYS

Shareholder

Scott H. Hogan

Anne M. Seuryneck

RELATED PRACTICES

Freedom of Information Act

Municipal & Public Entity Law

Open Meetings Act

Zoning & Land Use

- Reviewing of Library contracts, including AIA contracts, library service agreements and other vendor contracts.
- Drafting employee lease agreements and handling of employment issues.
- Assisting library clients with environmental contamination issues, including working with consultants and State of Michigan agencies.
- Assisting libraries with requests for information by law enforcement agencies and private entities, including the application of the Library Privacy Act and Patriot Act.
- Determining if an expenditure is a proper expenditure of library funds.
- Notifying clients of amendments and changes to existing laws.
- Representing libraries in litigation involving building construction issues.

PUBLICATIONS & ALERTS

Recent Developments Require Libraries to Adopt New Procedures and Policies, *Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast*, November 17, 2020

New Requirements for the Open Meetings Act – SB 1108, *Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast*, October 26, 2020

New Executive Orders Lift Some Restrictions on Libraries in Northern Michigan and the UP, *Foster Swift Legal Update E-blast*, June 5, 2020

Libraries may reopen on June 8, 2020, *Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast*, June 1, 2020

Frequently Asked Questions by Public Libraries During COVID-19, *Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast*, April 28, 2020

Impact of 2020-21 on Public Libraries in Michigan, *Foster Swift Library Law News E-blast*, March 23, 2020

Five Policies that Every Michigan Library Should Have in Place, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, November 7, 2018

Maintaining Attorney-Client Privilege in Public Meetings, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, April 24, 2018

Ten Critical Issues that Every Michigan Library Trustee Must Know, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 15, 2018

Michigan Court of Appeals Holds that State Aid Rules for Libraries are Unlawful, *Foster Swift Library Law News*, August 17, 2011

Public Library Successfully Challenges State Aid Rules, *Foster Swift Library Law E-News*, October 2010

NEWS

Seurnyck Listed in Crain's as Notable Woman in Law, *Crain's Grand Rapids Business Journal*, February 21, 2024

Seurnyck Recognized as a Notable West Michigan Lawyer, *Grand Rapids Business Journal*, March 20, 2023

Foster Swift Elects Officers for 2023, *Ingham County Legal News*, February 15, 2023



Foster Swift Selects Hogan as Finance Practice Leader, July 29, 2022

A sidebar with ... Anne Seuryneck, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, April 24, 2020

Foster Swift Elects Anne Seuryneck as President of the Firm, February 13, 2020

Firm Elects Executive Committee Members for 2019, *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*, March 7, 2019

Free Webinar Addresses How to Discipline and Terminate Employees, June 5, 2015

EVENTS

Providing Library Services, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference*, January 29, 2015

Are You Considering Forming a District Library?, *Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference*, May 2, 2014

Top 10 Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act Mistakes, *Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference*, May 1, 2014

Ten Legal Issues Every Director or Trustee Should Know, *Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference*, April 30, 2014

Fielding Questions on the Front Lines, *Michigan Library Association, Spring Institute, Panel Discussion*, April 12, 2013

WEBINAR | Guns and the Library, *Foster Swift Webinar in conjunction with the Michigan Cooperative Directors Association*, March 19, 2013

The Case for Sharing Libraries, Recreation and Other Public Services, *Michigan Association of CPAs, Local Government Summit on Efficiency Creation and Cost Savings*, February 28, 2013

WEBINAR | Library Privacy Act: The Fundamentals, December 8, 2011

Ask the Library and Labor Lawyer, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, October 26, 2011

What Would You Do? A Discussion of Common Employment Issues, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, October 26, 2011

WEBINAR | Open Meetings Act/Freedom of Information Act: What Every Library Should Know, October 11, 2011

WEBINAR | Problem Patrons: Developing and Enforcing Patron Behavior Policies, September 6, 2011

WEBINAR | Library Millages: From the Ballot Language to the Ballot Box, June 7, 2011

SEMINAR | Library Policies Seminar, *Walsh College & Foster Swift Collins & Smith, PC*, August 19, 2010