



Anne M. Seuryneck

Shareholder

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Anne has been practicing with Foster Swift's Administrative and Municipal Practice Group since her arrival at the firm. She currently serves as the firm President and Chair of the Executive Committee. Her entire career has focused on the representation of municipalities and public entities. Anne has extensive experience in drafting and reviewing ordinances and policies, serving as general counsel, counseling clients on Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and Open Meetings Act issues, and working with communities on millage and Michigan Campaign Finance Issues. Anne also has an expertise in library law.

To promote her belief that the best legal strategy is a proactive strategy, Anne assists communities with policy drafting and adoption. She is also a frequent speaker at seminars and conferences where the educational focus is on municipal law.

Prior to this leadership role, Anne was the Chairperson of the Recruiting Committee and was active on the firm's Diversity Committee. Currently, she also serves as a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Association and previously served on the Advocacy Committee for JDRF West Michigan. She currently serves on the Board of the Library of Michigan Foundation Board.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Drafting intergovernmental agreements and service contracts with other municipal entities.
- Assisting communities with zoning issues such as drafting and amending sign ordinances and assisting townships with special use permit requests for telecommunication towers.
- Drafting millage proposal and educating library boards regarding the application of the Michigan Campaign Finance laws.

PRACTICE AREAS

Administrative Law
Library Law
Freedom of Information Act
Open Meetings Act
School Law Services
Election & Campaign Finance Law
Municipal Litigation
Municipal & Public Entity Law

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School,
J.D., 1996
University of Michigan, B.A., 1993

BAR AND COURT ADMISSIONS

Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Western
District of Michigan
U.S. District Court for the Eastern
District of Michigan
U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals

HONORS & RECOGNITIONS

Notable Woman in Law, Crain's
Grand Rapids Business, 2024

Notable West Michigan Lawyer,
Grand Rapids Business Journal,
2023



- Addressing board governance issues, including the application of the Open Meetings and the FOIA.
- Successfully defend clients in FOIA cases
- Drafting district library agreements and assisting with all aspects of the district library formation process.
- Amending existing district library agreements, including adding participating municipalities to existing districts.
- Assisting libraries with request for information by law enforcement agencies and private entities, including the application of the Library Privacy Act and Patriot Act.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Now That the Stay at Home Order is Lifted, What do Municipalities Need to Know?, *Michigan Municipal League*, June 8, 2020

Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act: Back to the Basics, *Michigan Municipal League: 2018 Convention*, September 20, 2018

That's Unconstitutional! Fact and Fiction Regarding Townships and the Constitution, *2018 MTA Annual Conference: Michigan Townships Association*, April 25, 2018

WEBINAR: ADA Requirements: What Libraries Need to Know, *Michigan Cooperative Directors Association*, June 13, 2017

WEBINAR: Parliamentary Procedure: How To Run A Successful Meeting, *Michigan Cooperative Directors Association*, May 23, 2017

FOIA: Common mistakes and how to avoid them, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference & Expo*, April 12, 2017

The ABCs of the FOIA, *MTA: Upper Peninsula Municipal Law Seminar*, February 15, 2017

The Open Meetings Act and The Freedom Of Information Act, *Foster Swift: Legal Essentials for Municipal Officials*, January 18, 2017

Back to the Basics: OMA & FOIA, *Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks*, June 16, 2016

Funding for Public Projects, *Michigan Townships Association*, April 26, 2016

WEBINAR | Millage Proposals and Campaign Finance Issues, March 29, 2016

Behind Closed Doors: What Can Be Discussed in Closed Session?, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Educational Conference & Expo*, January 20, 2016

WEBINAR | New Changes to the Freedom of Information Act, February 17, 2015

Major Changes to Michigan's Freedom Of Information Act, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference*, January 29, 2015

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

WEBINAR | Open Meetings Act: What Every Municipality Should Know, August 12, 2014

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

Back to the Basics: OMA & FOIA, *Michigan Municipal League, Training Week*, April 24, 2013

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

WEBINAR | Avoid Common Freedom of Information Act Mistakes, *Foster Swift Webinar Series for New Municipal Officials*, March 14, 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

Back to the Basics: OMA & FOIA, *Michigan Municipal League, Elected Officials Academy*, February 15, 2013

WEBINAR | Municipal Ethics – Avoiding Common Mistakes, *Foster Swift Webinar Series for New Municipal Officials*, January 15, 2013

WEBINAR | Nuts & Bolts of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, *Foster Swift Webinar Series for New Municipal Officials*, December 13, 2012

Problem Patrons: Addressing and Responding to Patron Behavior, *2012 Loleta Fyan Small & Rural Libraries Conference*, May 2, 2012

WEBINAR | Millages: What You Need to Know About Drafting Proposals and Placing Them on the Ballot, April 19, 2012

Most Common Open Meetings Act and Freedom of Information Act Mistakes, and How to Avoid Them, *Michigan Municipal League*, March 20, 2012

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

WEBINAR | Open Meetings Act: What Every Municipality Should Know, November 17, 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

Top 10 Open Meetings Act Mistakes & How to Avoid Them, *Michigan Municipal League Annual Convention*, October 5, 2011

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

Section 8 Exceptions of the Open Meetings Act and Computer Networks, Social Media and Cloud Computing, *13th Annual PCLS-MAMA Summer Educational Conference*, June 13, 2011

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



Ask a Lawyer, *Michigan Townships Association*, January 26, 2011

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

FOIA and Open Meetings Act Webinar, *Michigan Library Association*, March 18, 2010

Rural Libraries and Legal Issues (focused on District Library Establishment), *Loleta Fyan Rural Libraries Conference*, 2009

Porn, Policy and Public Relations, *Michigan Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, Spring Workshop*, April 2008

Ask the Lawyer, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, 2008

"Street Legal" for Library Privacy Issues: Federal and Michigan Law After the Revised USA Patriot Act, *Michigan Library Association Intellectual Freedom Committee, Spring Workshop*, April 2007

Internet Issues, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, 2007

Township Millages: Simplifying a Complex Issue, *Michigan Townships Association Annual Conference*, 2006

Ask the Lawyer, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, 2005

Ask the Lawyer, *Michigan Library Association Annual Conference*, 2004

Vote Yes! Millage and Bond Issues, *Michigan Library Association Spring Workshop*, April 2003

PUBLICATIONS

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 Ways to Avoid Violating the Open Meetings Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, February 14, 2020

A Look at State and Federal FOIA, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, August 7, 2019

New Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act, *The Review (Michigan Municipal League)*, March 25, 2019

10 Things Every Municipality Should Know About the Open Meetings Act, *The Review (Michigan Municipal League)*, January 25, 2019



New Amendments to the Freedom of Information Act – Public Act 523 of 2018, *Michigan Police Chiefs (Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police)*, January 14, 2019

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

Sign Regulation After Reed v Town of Gilbert, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, October 31, 2016

New Freedom of Information Act Case: Documents Do Not Have to be Produced by the Time the FOIA Response is Due, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, July 19, 2016

Behind Closed Doors: What Can a Public Body Discuss in Closed Session?, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 26, 2016

Dispute Between City of Howell and Homeowner Over Grass Cutting Ordinance Ends Up in Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, September 23, 2015

Email and the Freedom of Information Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, April 30, 2015

Develop FOIA Documents for New Requirements, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 30, 2015

Complying with the New Freedom of Information Act Changes, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 27, 2015

New Changes to the Freedom of Information Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 16, 2015

On Your Mark, Get Set, Go: Court of Appeals Decision Creates Race to the Courthouse in Actions to Quiet Title Involving Municipalities, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, July 30, 2014

Attorney Fees Awarded Even for Technical Violations of The Open Meetings Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, January 30, 2014

Dealing with Employment Issues and Complying with the Open Meetings Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 2013

New Notice Requirements Added to the Open Meetings Act, *Foster Swift Municipal Law Bulletin*, January 10, 2013

New Law Mandates that Municipalities' Election Commission Must Appoint a Receiving Board, *Foster Swift Municipal Law Bulletin*, October 4, 2012

New FOIA Bill Introduced – HB 5879, *Foster Swift Municipal Law Bulletin*, September 19, 2012

HB 5335: A Proposed Change to the OMA to Prohibit Voting by Telephone and Video Conference, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 2012

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



Private Emails Sent on Public Systems are not Automatically Subject to Disclosure Under FOIA, *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, March 2010

The Freedom of Information Act: Do Emails Qualify as a "Public Record?", *Foster Swift Municipal Law News*, June 2009

Pornography: Policies, Procedures and Public Relations, *Michigan Libraries*, May/June 2008

MEMBERSHIPS & AFFILIATIONS

Legal Affiliations:

- State Bar of Wisconsin
- State Bar of Michigan
- American Bar Association
- Fellow, Michigan State Bar Foundation

Industry & Professional Associations:

- Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys, Member

RECENT BLOG POSTS

Michigan Election Law Blog

Primary Election Day 2020: Your Guide to Navigating Masks, Selfies, and Other Election Day Rules

Campaigning during COVID-19: Rules for Absentee Ballots