

Christopher J. Jaekels

Milwaukee, WI

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PARTNER

Chris always puts his clients' interests first. He is experienced in real estate, land use, eminent domain, property tax, municipal law and development, zoning, construction, corporate regulatory, and environmental law. He understands how to approach the goals and challenges of businesses and institutions in ways that overcome those challenges and meet those goals in a cost effective manner.

Chris also assists public (both municipal and utility) and private (both commercial and nonprofit) clients in all aspects of land regulation, real estate and corporate transactions, eminent domain, finance, governance, contracting, and infrastructure.

Experience

Took the lead in multi-million-dollar remediation and redevelopment projects statewide

Represented multiple municipal public works and parks departments utilities including sewer utilities, storm water utilities, water utilities, and parking utilities in all matters of eminent domain, land use and environmental regulation

Negotiated construction contracts and development agreements worth several hundred million dollars for public and private developments

Represented landowners and businesses in eminent domain issues regarding right to take and value of award from fee simple to leasehold including relocation and lost business

Represented municipalities on sewer issues, including a coalition of municipalities before the state Supreme Court and Public Service Commission in a \$100 million dispute over rates

Represented local sewerage district and joint sewerage commission regarding environmental permitting and disputes

SERVICES

Corporate & Securities

Construction

Eminent Domain

Franchising

Nonprofit Institutions & Tax-Exempt Organizations

PFAS

Public Entities

Real Estate, Zoning & Public Finance

Telecommunications & Public Utilities

Transportation & Logistics

EDUCATION

University of Wisconsin Law School, J.D.

University of St. Thomas, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

Wisconsin

Represented utilities and landowners in eminent domain and leasing of telecommunication

Represented municipalities and property owners regarding property tax disputes

\$43.24 Million Asset and Stock Sale in the Food and Beverage Industry

Successfully Settled a Case for a Municipality Against an Insurer Where the Insured Caused Property Damage

Facilitating Property Transfer and Conveyance for New Basketball Arena

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Membership & Involvement

- Trustee: Wisconsin Policy Forum
- Panelist: Milwaukee Mayor's Blue Ribbon Panel on Sewers
- Village Attorney: Villages of Whitefish Bay and Bayside
- Former President, Current Vice President: Heiliger Huegel Ski Club, Inc.
- Former President and Board Member: State Bar of Wisconsin Environmental Law Section; River Revitalization Foundation, Inc.; Rotary Club Milwaukee
- Former Board Member: Milwaukee Shakespeare; Wisconsin Green Building Alliance; Marble Arch Society
- Member: Environmental Law Institute; International Municipal Lawyers Association; Wisconsin Association of Assessing Officers

Honors

- Martindale-Hubbell AV® Preeminent™ rated
- Listed as Top Rated Lawyer in Environmental, Construction Law and Energy, Commercial Litigation, and Natural Resources by American Lawyer Media
- Selected to the Wisconsin Super Lawyers list: 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
- Selected to Best Lawyers® in Litigation - Municipal "Lawyer of the Year" in Milwaukee: 2024
- Selected to Best Lawyers® in Environmental Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Milwaukee: 2023
- Selected to Best Lawyers® in Municipal Law "Lawyer of the Year" in Milwaukee: 2013, 2016, 2019, 2022
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Environmental Law: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Litigation - Municipal: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026
- Selected to *The Best Lawyers in America*® in Municipal Law: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

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Firm News

Congratulations to Our 2025 Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars!

Firm News, November 25, 2025

130 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2026 in America

Firm News, August 21, 2025

Congratulations to Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included on the 2024 Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists

Firm News, November 14, 2024

93 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2025 in America

Firm News, August 15, 2024

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in 2023 Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars Lists!

Firm News, November 16, 2023

77 Amundsen Davis Attorneys Recognized by Best Lawyers® in 2024 in America

Firm News, August 17, 2023

Amundsen Davis Attorneys Included in the 2022 Wisconsin Super Lawyers and Rising Stars List

Firm News, *Amundsen Davis*, November 15, 2022

Alerts

City of Milwaukee Property Tax Notice of Assessment Objection/Appeal

Deadline – May 16, 2022

City of Milwaukee Property Tax Notice of Assessment Objection/Appeal

Deadline – May 18, 2020

City of Milwaukee Property Owners Face May 20th Deadline for Filing of Objections to 2019 Property Tax Notice of Assessment

Property Owners Who Deny Access to Tax Assessors Are Now Able to Appeal to Board of Review or Circuit Court

Your Property At Risk: U.S. Supreme Court Decision Confirms Importance of Understanding Zoning During Real Estate Acquisitions

Google Mandates Play Store and In-App Privacy Policies

Speaking Engagements

43rd Annual Public Officials Program

Event, Webcast, April 28, 2021

Legal Ethics During a Pandemic

Speaking Engagement, State Bar of Wisconsin's Environmental Section, Webcast, September 10, 2020

42nd Annual Public Officials Program

Event, April 29, 2020

Ethical Issues Arising During Emergency Environmental Lawyering Today

Speaking Engagement, State Bar Center; Madison, WI, September 12, 2019

41st Annual Public Officials Program

Event, The Marq; De Pere, WI, April 29, 2019

Ethical Issues Arising During Emergency Environmental Lawyering Today

Speaking Engagement, State Bar of Wisconsin; Pewaukee, WI, September 13, 2018

40th Annual Public Officials Program

Event, The Marq; De Pere, WI, April 30, 2018

Ethical Issues Arising During Emergency Environmental Lawyering Today

Speaking Engagement, Country Springs Hotel; Pewaukee, WI, September 13, 2017

Association of Corporate Counsel Wisconsin Chapter 2017 Annual Conference (ACC-WI)

Speaking Engagement, The Osthoff Resort; Elkhart Lake, WI, May 18, 2017

39th Annual Public Officials Program

Speaking Engagement, The Marq; De Pere, WI, April 26, 2017

Blog Posts

Forever Chemicals (PFAS) in Real Estate Transactions: Avoiding Forever

Consequences

Corporate News: A Legal Update, February 8, 2023

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