

J. Jeffrey McNealey

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Jeff has extensive experience assisting local, regional and national clients in the acquisition and development of industrial, commercial and multifamily properties, with a focus on zoning and land use planning matters, annexation, integration with regional or local governmental plans, environmental licensing, and compliance with zoning and environmental regulations. Jeff assists with various types of tax abatements, incentive and other governmental programs, and deals with local citizen group demands that may arise in connection with real estate and industrial developments. He has creatively solved precedent setting environmental air and water permitting cases, saving more than two thousand jobs. One such case involved administrative and judicial permitting controversies surrounding a 5,300 foot deep well into Ohio's bedrock. Interweaving legal concepts with geologic technical data the well was successfully completed. He has also been involved in many multi-million dollar Brownfield redevelopments as a means of "cutting the Gordian knot" of seemingly endless Superfund litigation. Jeff has successfully integrated political lobbying with environmental enforcement defense to gain leverage on behalf of the clients. Integrating his broad private sector representation, Jeff routinely consults with municipal, county, and township governmental units to help them efficiently and expeditiously resolve challenges that are becoming increasingly similar to those challenges facing the private sector. With a business focus on environmental issues, Jeff served from 1985 until 2010 as a Director of TRC Companies (NYSE), an international environmental and engineering consulting firm. Most recently, he has served as Lead Director. Since 1971, he has served as a Director and Counsel to the Columbus-based Smoot Corporation, one of the nation's largest minority-owned contracting firms.

For more than 20 years, Jeff has been named in *The Best Lawyers in America*® and he has been recognized for many years in *Chambers USA*® (environment and real estate zoning and land use). *Chambers USA*® refers to him as a "Senior Statesman" of Ohio environmental lawyers. In addition, Jeff has been recognized by *Ohio Super Lawyers*® for a number of years. He lectures regularly in local and regional seminars and at the OSU Knowlton School of Architecture, City and Regional Planning and annually at the OSU Moritz College of Law. Jeff also lectured in December of 1995 to judges in Ukraine on behalf of USAID with regard to U.S. environmental laws, and in June, 2006 on urban planning at the Leibniz Institute of Ecological and Regional Development, Dresden, Germany. In 2009, Mr. McNealey chaired the Friends of Metro Parks which supported the successful 10 year tax levy funding the Franklin County Metropolitan Park District.

Professional Associations

- Ohio Supreme Court, Board of Commissioners on the Unauthorized Practice of Law, past Member and Chair
- American Bar Association, SONREEL



Contact Information

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- Ohio State Bar Association, Environmental Committee, founding Chairman
- Columbus Bar Association, Environmental Committee

Education

- J.D. The Ohio State University College of Law 1969
- B.A. Cornell University 1966
- Columbus Academy 1962

Bar Admissions

- State of Ohio
- Supreme Court of the United States
- U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit
- U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Ohio
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of Missouri
- U.S. District Court for the Western District of North Carolina

Honors & Awards

- Recognized as one of America's Leading Lawyers by *Chambers USA* 2012 as a "Senior Statesman" in the area of Real Estate: Zoning/Land Use (Ohio)
- Listed in *The Best Lawyers in America®* in the areas of Environmental Law and Land Use & Zoning Law
- Martindale-Hubbell, AV Peer Review Rated since 1970s
- Recipient, German Village Society "Frank Fetch Award" (2004)
- Recipient, Catherine Nelson Black Philanthropic Spirit Award, Columbus Cancer Clinic (2007)
- Recipient, Distinguished Alumnus of 2007, Columbus Academy

Community/Civic/Volunteer Work

- Church Foundation of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio, Trustee
- Columbus Recreation and Parks Commission, Board Member
- Columbus and Franklin County Metro Parks System, Commissioner
- Urban Land Institute, Columbus District Board
- Dresden Sister City, Inc., founding Board Member; Columbus Striezelmarkt, co-organizer
- Cornell Alumni Association of Central Ohio, founding Board Member; past President
- Columbus Cancer Clinic, Board Member; past President
- German Village Oktoberfest, past Executive Committee
- German Village Society, past Board Member; past President
- Trinity Episcopal Church, Chair, Endowment Committee; past Vestry Member and Senior Warden
- Columbus Historical Society, Board Member; past President
- Columbus Urban League, past Board Member
- Columbus Area Red Cross, past Board Member
- Columbus Academy Alumni Association of Central Ohio, past

- Board Member
- Friends of Metro Parks, Chair
- Leadership Columbus (1978)

Real Estate

- Commercial and residential development
- Economic development incentives
- Environmental compliance
- Purchase and sale transactions
- Tax appeals
- Zoning, annexation, and land use planning

Environmental Law

- Audits and assessments
- CERCLA
- Clean Water Act
- Environmental permitting
- Solid/hazardous waste disposal

Business Growth & Operation

- Corporate governance
- Entrepreneurial business
- Organization/planning/financing

Government & Regulatory Affairs

- Incentives and grants
- Legislative drafting and advocacy
- Regulatory drafting and advocacy

Oil & Gas