



13 WWRP partners named to 2027 edition of *Best Lawyers in America*; plus, C. Kim Shierk gets *Lawyer of the Year* regional honor in land use and zoning law

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Birmingham, Mich. –August 20, 2026 – Michigan-based, full-service business law firm Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett (WWRP) is pleased to announce that 13 partners have been selected by their peers for inclusion in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2027 edition. *Best Lawyers* annually recognizes exceptional legal talent worldwide using its *Purely Peer Review* evaluation process and is widely regarded by both clients and legal professionals as a significant honor conferred on a lawyer by their peers. The following WWRP attorneys have received the *Best Lawyers* designation in their respective categories of distinction:

- **Alexander A. Ayar**: Litigation - Real Estate
- **Robert S. Bick**: Closely Held Companies and Family Business Law; Corporate Law, Mergers and Acquisitions Law
- **John W. Crowe**: Corporate Law
- **James P. Cunningham**: Family Law
- **Brian E. Etzel**: Commercial Litigation; Employment Law – Individuals
- **John D. Gaber**: Litigation – Real Estate
- **Robert B. Labe**: Trusts and Estates
- **Jason C. Long**: Land Use and Zoning Law; Real Estate Law
- **Jerome Pesick**: Eminent Domain and Condemnation Law; Real Estate Law
- **David E. Plunkett**: Commercial Litigation
- **Richard E. Rassel, III**: Commercial Litigation
- **Richard D. Rattner**: Copyright Law; Land Use and Zoning Law; Litigation – Land Use and Zoning; Litigation – Real Estate; Real Estate Law
- **C. Kim Shierk**: Corporate Law; Land Use and Zoning Law; Real Estate Law

In addition to being named a *Best Lawyer*, C. Kim Shierk has been awarded 2027 *Best Lawyers* regional ‘*Lawyer of the Year*’ honors, bestowed on the individual lawyer with the highest overall peer-feedback for a specific practice area and geographic region. Shierk received the accolade in the category of Land Use and Zoning Law. Only one lawyer can be recognized as the ‘*Lawyer of the Year*’ for each specialty and region. She was previously awarded *Best Lawyers* ‘*Lawyer of the Year*’ honor, also in Land Use and Zoning Law, in the 2025 edition. The latest acknowledgement follows Shierk being named by Crain’s Detroit Business as [a Notable Woman in Law](#) in February 2026. At WWRP, she represents real estate developers in all aspects of land development: zoning approvals and entitlements, property acquisition, construction and permanent financing, development agreements, construction contracts and leasing. Her practice also encompasses telecommunications law and land use.

About Best Lawyers

Best Lawyers’ lists of outstanding lawyers are compiled by conducting exhaustive peer-review surveys in which tens of thousands of leading lawyers confidentially evaluate their professional peers. If the votes for a lawyer are positive enough for recognition by *Best Lawyers*, that lawyer must maintain those votes in subsequent polls to remain in each edition. Lawyers are not permitted to pay any fee to participate in or be recognized by *Best Lawyers*. For more information on the methodology, visit <https://www.bestlawyers.com/methodology>.

About Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett

Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett is a corporate law firm comprised of trusted attorneys, counselors and litigators committed to our clients’ success. Practice areas include business and commercial law, mergers and acquisitions, real estate including zoning, property tax appeals and eminent domain, commercial litigation, trusts and estates, divorce, and family law matters. A leader in local and state bar activities, community organizations, and charitable endeavors, Williams Williams Rattner & Plunkett understands the role attorneys play in a dynamic business environment, and as members of a vibrant community. Learn more about the firm and its commitment to exceptional client service at www.WWRPLaw.com.

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