



Lawsikia J. Hodges

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Areas of Practice

Governmental Affairs | Government Procurement | Government and Regulatory Law | Real Estate Law

Lawsikia Hodges is Counsel in the Governmental Affairs Practice of Smith, Gambrell & Russell, LLP.

Ms. Hodges has nearly 17 years of public service experience representing local government clients in all facets of government operations. As the former Deputy General Counsel of the Office of General Counsel, City of Jacksonville, she has previously offered invaluable counsel to a wide array of City of Jacksonville, Duval County, governmental entities, including the Jacksonville Mayor, 19-member Jacksonville City Council, special districts, independent authorities, and various local government boards and commissions. Her practice spans across a broad spectrum of local government law and transactional work, encompassing real estate and public finance transactions, government procurement, budget ordinances, economic development and incentives, community redevelopment, federal and local grants, interlocal and interagency government agreements, quasi-judicial proceedings, sunshine law compliance, public records management, and state ethics laws governing public officials and employees. Ms. Hodges has led legal initiatives for several special district governmental entities in Duval County, including the Jacksonville Port Authority (JAXPORT), JEA, Jacksonville Housing Authority (JHA), Jacksonville Housing Finance Authority (JHFA), Police and Fire Pension Board of Trustees (PFPF), and the Research Development Authority (RDA). Ms. Hodges was instrumental in formulating policies and procedures for the City of Jacksonville's Real Estate Code, Government Procurement Code, and Jacksonville Small and Emerging Business Program. Ms. Hodges also formulated grant policies and procedures for the Downtown Investment Authority (DIA), Duval County Tourist Development Council (TDC), Public Service Grant Council, Kids Hope Alliance (KHA), and Jacksonville Housing and Community Development Commission (JHCDC).

Prior to joining the City of Jacksonville, Office of General Counsel, Ms. Hodges was an associate in the Real Estate Practice Group of the Business Law Department of Foley & Lardner LLP, where she represented private lenders and developers in multi-million commercial real estate, finance, and condominium development transactions.

Ms. Hodges is a Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in City, County and Local Government Law and serves on the Florida Bar City, County and Local Government Certification Committee. Additionally, she is an AV Preeminent Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated Attorney and has been recognized as a "Legal Elite" Top Government Attorney by Florida Trend. Ms. Hodges earned her law degree with honors from the University of Florida Levin College of Law. During her law school career, she was a member of the Justice Campbell Thornal Moot Court Team and served as an intern for the United States House of Representatives. Ms. Hodges received her undergraduate degree with honors from the University of North Florida where she majored in Political Science and minored in History.

Ms. Hodges is a member of several legal associations, including the Florida Bar Association, the Jacksonville Bar Association, the D.W. Perkins Bar Association, the Florida Association of County Attorneys, the Florida Municipal Lawyers Association, Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association, the Jacksonville Women's Network, and the Catholic Lawyers Guild. Ms. Hodges is a Leadership Jacksonville graduate, and she currently serves on the nonprofit boards of the Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, Inc. (MOCA), a private visual arts educational institution and cultural institute of the University of North Florida, WJCT Inc., a community-owned and operated public media organization, and Young Catholic Professionals, Inc. (Jacksonville Chapter). Ms. Hodges is an active member of St. Catherine of Siena Catholic Church where she serves as a lector, adorer, eucharistic minister, and chair of the Justice and Peace Ministry. She is a former board member of Pace Center for Girls, Inc. (Jacksonville). She enjoys spending time with her family, reading spiritual books, and attending the Jacksonville Symphony.

Admissions

Florida

Memberships

- Florida Bar Association
- Jacksonville Bar Association
- Clay Bar Association
- Nonprofit Center of Northeast Florida, Inc. - Board Member
- Florida Association of County Attorneys
- Florida Municipal Lawyers Association
- Catholic Lawyers Guild
- Jacksonville Women Lawyers Association
- D.W. Perkins Bar Association
- Jacksonville Women's Network
- Museum of Contemporary Art Jacksonville, Inc. - Board Member

- WJCT, Inc. - Board Trustee
- Young Catholic Professionals - Board Member

Recognitions

- Florida Bar Special Committee, Sustainability Initiative for Attorneys
- Florida Bar Board Certified Specialist in City, County and Local Government Law
- Florida Bar City, County and Local Government Certification Committee, Chair
- AV Preeminent Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Rated Attorney
- Florida Trend "Legal Elite" Top Government Attorney
- Leadership Jacksonville Graduate
- Jacksonville City Council Resolution 2024-263-A - Recognition for Outstanding Career