

Eric M. Borneman

Rockford, IL

He/Him

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About Eric

Eric counsels clients on often complex litigation matters and provides proactive, preventative legal guidance. He routinely defends corporations, government entities, construction companies, small businesses, individuals, and citizens' groups in personal injury, employment, negligence, civil rights, and a variety of other tort or statutory claims. His well-rounded experience also includes advising companies and government entities on policy development, drafting procedures, purchasing and employment agreements, and responding to claims brought by regulatory agencies, such as the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA), the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA), the Illinois Attorney General, and local governments.

Eric is well-versed in several niche areas of law affecting businesses and government entities, including the Americans with Disabilities Act, Section 1983, the Illinois School Code, the Governmental Tort Immunity Act, the Illinois Mechanics' Lien Act, the Eminent Domain Act, Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund), the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and other federal, state and local environmental laws. He also counsels clients on zoning, permitting, land use, and real estate development.

Eric also has extensive experience advising public sector clients. For educational institutions, he counsels on policy implementation and represents school boards in student disciplinary and special education matters. For other public bodies, he handles enforcement hearings, drafts ordinances, and provides legal opinions and consultations. Leveraging his experience as a former city council member, Eric advises public bodies, citizens, and businesses on the Freedom of Information Act, the Open Meetings Act, and ethics and conflict-of-interest laws.

Prior to joining Hinshaw, Eric served as a state prosecutor, gaining significant trial experience in criminal and civil matters. Understanding that no two clients or cases are alike, he helps prevent or resolve disputes through

counseling, settlement negotiation, and alternative dispute resolution. When litigation is necessary, Eric is a strong and effective advocate.

Eric's Affiliations

- Northwest Illinois Enterprise Zone, Board Member
- Highland Community College Foundation, Board Member
- Northern Illinois University College of Law, Mock Trial Competition; Volunteer Judge; Mentorship Program, Mentor

Areas of Focus

Industries: Energy & Environment; Government; Insurance Regulatory & Compliance

Services: Environmental

Credentials

Education

Northern Illinois University College of Law, JD, *magna cum laude*, 2015

Northern Illinois University, BS, 2011

Bar Admissions

Illinois

Interests

Did you know...

Eric is a *bona fide* pizza impresario, having worked in pizzerias throughout high school, college, and law school. While he no longer slings dough professionally, it is always available as an alternate career.

In his free time Eric's enjoys being a husband and father, playing the guitar, and working on ways to improve his slice on the golf course.

Community/Civic Activities

- City of Freeport, City Council, First Ward Alderperson, April 2019 – May 2023; Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
- Freeport Lincoln-Douglas Kiwanis
- Highland Community College Leadership Institute, Graduate

Thought Leadership

Press Release

- Hinshaw Elects Eleven New Partners in Seven Offices, Jan 2, 2024