von Briesen & Roper, s.c. | Attorneys at Law



Christopher R. Smith

Attorney

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Chris Smith is a Shareholder and co-Chair of the Real Estate Section. He focuses his practice on real estate development, eminent domain and property tax. He has significant experience in all phases of real estate development with a particular emphasis on drafting and negotiating development agreements, Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and public-private partnerships. He represents both public and private entities on eminent domain matters and property tax assessments. Chris is a frequent presenter on land use and tax issues.

Chris is also a member of the Government Law Group. In addition to working with counties and municipalities on real estate and development issues, Chris has experience conducting investigations, developing intergovernmental agreements, Police and Fire Commission hearings, and transactional matters. He currently serves as City Attorney for South Milwaukee and as Village Attorney for Mount Pleasant.

Chris is a frequent presenter on land use and tax issues. He also provides the monthly case law updates to the American Planning Association – Wisconsin Chapter.

Outside of the office, Chris serves as the President and Founder of the Da Crusher Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that successfully led the effort to create and install the famous Crusher Statue and continues to oversee the annual Crusherfest celebration in South Milwaukee.

Areas of Practice

- Real Estate
- Real Estate Development
- Property Tax Assessment
- Eminent Domain and Condemnation
- Government Law
- County and Municipal Governance
- New Markets Tax Credits

Education

- Marquette University, J.D., 2004
- University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, B.B.A., 2001

Bar Admissions

- Wisconsin
- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Wisconsin

Professional and Civic Associations

- State Bar of Wisconsin
- Milwaukee Bar Association
- CREDA Wisconsin
- Commercial Association of Realtors Wisconsin (CARW)

Honors and Accomplishments

- Best Lawyers® Municipal Law "Lawyer of the Year" Milwaukee (2027)
- *The Best Lawyers in America*®, Government Relations (2024-2027), Municipal Law (2025-2027), Real Estate Law (2025-2027)
- Wisconsin Super Lawyers® (2026)
- Wisconsin Rising Stars (2009-2018)

Community Involvement

- Milwaukee Development Corporation (MDC), Board of Directors
- Wisconsin Policy Forum, Government Finance and Economic Development Committees