



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Three Municipal Attorneys Inducted into Academy of Municipal Attorneys

John Barr, Peter Letzmann and William Mathewson Selected for Academy

LANSING, Michigan (Oct. 14, 2016)—Three prominent attorneys serving in the field of municipal law have been inducted into the Academy of Municipal Attorneys (AMA). Those inducted to the prestigious Academy are John Barr of Barr, Anhut & Associates in Ypsilanti; Peter Letzmann of Peter Letzmann Associates in Grand Rapids; and William Mathewson, general counsel for the Michigan Municipal League. The three were recognized during the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys Municipal Law Program in Lansing Thursday, Oct. 13, 2016.

The Academy of Municipal Attorneys was established by the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys to recognize attorneys who have achieved a special level of education and service in the municipal law field.

“To be inducted into the academy is not just an honor, but it’s an earned honor,” said Andrew Mulder, a member of the Academy board and a municipal attorney in Holland. “To reach this level you must complete deliberate course work and also get recognition by your peers.”

To be inducted, the attorneys must achieve educational and practice requirements. The educational component of the program seeks to train and educate the applicant in not only the basic elements of municipal law, but also to encourage academic and scholarly excellence in municipal law. The practice component recognizes the implementation of the academic component by applying the academic program to effective and competent legal practice. In addition, membership in the AMA seeks to encourage opportunities for dialogue, friendship and fellowship with social opportunities to promote the Academy, Mulder said. View the criteria and additional information about the Academy here: <http://www.mama-online.org/academy/>.

Barr has been an attorney for more than 50 years, and currently is attorney for the city of Ypsilanti and other municipalities. He is the recipient of numerous other awards and recognitions, including the State Bar of Michigan Frank J. Kelley Distinguished Public Service Award.

Letzmann has been an attorney for more than 40 years, and is also a mediator, consultant, municipal attorney and educator. He currently represents the Lowell Fire and Rescue Authority.

Mathewson, of Ann Arbor, has been the League’s general counsel since 1997, and previously served in several distinctly different positions with the League in its Ann Arbor and Lansing offices. He also serves as secretary-treasurer of the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys and is the fund administrator of the League’s Legal



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Defense Fund, which provides appellate-level amicus assistance to municipalities involved in litigation of statewide importance.

For photos of Barr, Letzmann and Mathewson receiving their induction plaques, go to this album on flickr <https://www.flickr.com/photos/michigancommunities/albums/72157673852852391>.

About the Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys: The Michigan Association of Municipal Attorneys (MAMA) is a chartered section of the Michigan Municipal League, which is a Michigan non-profit corporation. MAMA was established in 1935 as an affiliated organization of the League. The Association is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the member municipal attorneys. Membership consists of every city and village attorney, who represents a member of the Michigan Municipal League, their deputies and assistants, and League staff members duly admitted to practice law in the State of Michigan. Any attorney admitted to practice law in Michigan who has a substantial interest in municipal law may become an associate member upon application and approval by the Board of Directors. Any student enrolled in a recognized law school may be a law student member upon application and approval by the Board of Directors.

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