

# MELISSA B. PAPKE



## Contact Information

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## Education

University of Michigan Law School  
Ann Arbor, Michigan  
J.D., 1998

Dartmouth College  
Hanover, New Hampshire  
B.A., Asian Studies and Japanese, 1995

## Legal

### Employment

Varnum  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 2004  
Partner

Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, LLP  
New York, New York  
Associate, Litigation and Real Estate, 1998 - 2002

## Practice Areas

Corporate and Real Estate: development, land use planning, sales and acquisitions for residential, commercial, industrial and mixed use projects, creating, managing and amending condominiums, subdivisions and plats, primary, secondary, and replacement financing for lenders and borrowers, structuring joint ventures, operating and holding entities, commercial lease negotiation, management, and enforcement for landlords and tenants, multi-family low income tax credit property transactions, large and small-scale conservation easements and charitable donations, sustainable forest management and marketing of carbon offset credits, environmental issues for buildings and land, cottage law, and real and personal property tax issues.

Admitted to New York Bar in 1999; admitted to Michigan Bar in 2004

## Professional Affiliations

American College of Mortgage Attorneys: State Chair for Michigan (2011—; Fellow (2009—)

## MELISSA B. PAPKE

State Bar of Michigan: Real Property Law Section (Member 2004—, Council Member 2011—); Environmental and Energy Law Committee (co-Chair, 2007—)

Grand Rapids Bar Association: Real Estate Section (Member 2004—), Board of Directors, Treasurer, Secretary (2010—)

### **Presentations and Publications**

2011: CoChair of Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan Conference – "The ABCs of Regulatory Reform: A Big Change" (Washington, DC)

2010: Speaker at Real Property Law Section of State Bar of Michigan Conference – "Turning REDD Credits into Green Carbon" (Phoenix, AZ)

2009: Author of "Michigan's Forests and Farms: Tapping and Marketing Our Land Resources for Carbon Sequestration," published in Summer Edition of Michigan Real Property Law Journal

2009: Collaborator on Michigan Cottage Law book co-authored by Varnum attorneys and local real estate broker

2008: Speaker at Real Property Law Section of the State Bar of Michigan Conference – "What Goes Down Must Come Up; Advising Clients about Real Estate in Michigan: After the Purchase Agreement- Issues that Arise on the Way to Closing" (Grand Traverse, MI)

2008: Speaker at Lorman Seminar: Plats and Subdivision Law - Condominium Development (Grand Rapids, MI)

2004 - 2008: Contributor to updated editions and supplements of Michigan Real Estate Practice & Forms, ICLE Michigan Business Formbook, and ACMA National Mortgage Law Summary

2002: Co-Author of Stroock Article re Interpreting Commercial Landlord and Tenant Termination and Rent Abatement Rights under New York law after 9/11

1996: Contributor of statutory analysis and case law for WARN Act 1996 Practitioner's Guide

### **Recognitions**

2001: InMotion Commitment to Justice Award for pro bono representation of domestic violence victims and low-income women

1991: National Hispanic Scholar

### **Languages**

Proficient in Spanish and Japanese

### **Community Involvement**

Habitat for Humanity: Family Services Committee for Home Ownership Program (Board Member, 2010—)

West Michigan Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (Board Member and Membership Committee Chair, 2011—)

## **MELISSA B. PAPKE**

Inforum - Professional Women's Alliance

All Souls Community Church (Volunteer 1st-3rd grade teacher)

Varnum's Diversity Committee and liaison to Hispanic law student groups