

# WILLIAM J. LAWRENCE III

## **Contact Information**

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## **Education**

University of Notre Dame Law School  
Notre Dame, Indiana  
J.D., 1983  
Executive Editor, *Notre Dame Law Review*, 1982 - 1983

Miami University  
Oxford, Ohio  
A.B., 1980

## **Legal Employment**

Varnum  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 1983  
Of Counsel  
Executive Partner of the Firm, 1992-June, 2008  
Managing Partner of the Firm, 2001-2007

## **Practice Areas**

General Corporate, including securities, mergers and acquisitions, antitrust and product distribution, and international trade

## **Publications and Presentations**

Published articles in the *Notre Dame Law Review* and the *Michigan Bar Journal*

## **Professional Affiliations**

Fellow of the American Bar Foundation  
Fellow of the Michigan Bar Foundation  
American Bar Association  
State Bar of Michigan  
Grand Rapids Bar Association  
Family Office Exchange

# WILLIAM J. LAWRENCE III

Georgia Forestry Association

## **Community Involvement**

St. John's Home (vice chair of the board and immediate past board chair)

Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park (board of directors and finance committee)

Notre Dame Law School (Order of St. Thomas More)

## **Past Community Involvement**

Heart of West Michigan United Way (board, chair)

West Michigan Telecommunications Foundation (board)

Kendall College of Art and Design (board)

Kendall College Foundation (board)

Michigan Cities in Schools (board)

Better Business Bureau of West Michigan (board)

The Right Place, Inc. (board)

Diocesan School Board, Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids (board)

Southeast Region Education Council, Catholic Diocese of Grand Rapids, (council chair)

Old Kent Bank of Kalamazoo/American National Bank (board)

St. Robert of Newminster Catholic Church (chairman, finance council)

Leadership Grand Rapids (participant 1990-1991)

Youth Recreational and Travel Soccer (coach)

Church Youth Group (work camp adult leader)

## **Representative Cases**

### Securities Law

Advise publicly-traded companies on anti-takeover devices including two-tiered voting mechanisms, shareholder rights plans and other defensive tactics

Advise clients on federal securities law matters including registration under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and compliance with reporting and other requirements under such acts

Counsel clients in obtaining private sources of equity and debt financing

### Mergers and Acquisitions

Counsel in many acquisitions of all sizes involving public and private companies including joint venture transactions, leveraged buyout and leveraged ESOP transactions, transactions involving earn-out, put and call options and other contingent pay mechanisms, and other transactions involving sophisticated securities and antitrust law issues

## **WILLIAM J. LAWRENCE III**

### International Law

Advise clients on variety of international joint ventures, direct investment, acquisitions and divestitures and product distribution

### Antitrust and Product Distribution

Advise clients on a host of antitrust issues including those involved in product distribution and mergers and acquisitions

Advise clients in the design of domestic and international distributor, dealer and/or agent networks including drafting of form distributor, dealer and agent agreements and negotiating variations

Advise clients on termination of distributors, dealers and agents in many states and foreign countries

Advise franchisors and franchisees on franchise law and franchise contract matters