

# Steven F. Stapleton

## Member

**Steven Stapleton** represents clients and provides crisis communication in various areas of commercial litigation, particularly labor and employment matters, including the enforcement of non-compete agreements; business ownership disputes; and a variety of specialized contentious claims, including sports-related sexual abuse litigation.

Steve advises senior management team for employers across the country. He assists clients on corporate governance and restructuring, rule/policy drafting, contract review, and employment related issues. He has established a niche representing sports related entities and governing bodies and is deeply familiar with the obligations those organizations face under various state and federal laws. He serves as outside General Counsel to the Michigan Amateur Hockey Association and is a member of the USA Hockey Legal Council. Steve serves as special counsel to the Arizona Amateur Hockey Association, Connecticut Hockey Conference, Texas Amateur Hockey Association, Utah Amateur Hockey Association, C2 Attack Volleyball Club, RipFest Diving and advises many other governing bodies, conferences, leagues, teams, administrators and coaches. He represents coaches and university athletic department personnel in NCAA related investigations.

Steve counsels educational and sport-related organizations and helps clients implement and monitor comprehensive player safety/background screening and Safe Sport programs and, with Clark Hill Sports Industry Team members, conducts sensitive investigations related to allegations of sexual abuse/harassment. He counsels clients in the context of amateur/collegiate competition and represents the sports client in actions seeking to impose discipline or other sanctions related to athletic competition.



## Office

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## Practices, Industries & Services

Litigation  
Sports

## Areas of Emphasis

Appellate  
Business Litigation  
Commercial Litigation  
Employment Litigation

## Memberships

- American Bar Association, Council Member, State and Local Government Section, 2013-Present; Committee Coordinator, 2015-Present; Chair, Government Operations Committee, 2012-2015
- State Bar of Michigan
- Grand Rapids Bar Association
- Sports Lawyers Association
- Michigan Amateur Hockey Association, General Counsel, 2006-present
- USA Hockey, Legal Counsel, 2006-present; SafeSport Screening Appeal Committee, 2012-present; Legal Council Affiliate Agreement Compliance and Audit Committee, 2012-2014; Legal Council League Sanctioning Committee, 2012-2014

## Honors

- American Bar Foundation, Fellow 2005-present
- Litigation Council of America, Fellow, 2009-present
- Best Lawyers in America - Commercial Litigation
- Michigan Super Lawyers, Rising Star, General Litigation, Government/Cities/Municipalities, Civil Litigation Defense, 2009

## Presentations

## Education

J.D., cum laude, University of Detroit  
Mercy School of Law, Detroit,  
Michigan, 1994

B.A., Grand Valley State University,  
Allendale, Michigan, 1991, Political  
Science

## State Bar Licenses

Michigan

## Court Admissions

U.S. Court of Appeals, 6th Circuit  
Supreme Court of Michigan  
Michigan Court of Appeals  
U.S. District Ct., E.D. of Michigan  
U.S. District Ct., W.D. of Michigan  
U.S. District Ct., S.D. of Indiana

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- Anatomy of a #MeToo Investigation,” ABA Section on State and Local Government Law, Fall Meeting, 2018
  - “A Tale of Two Municipalities (Detroit and Puerto Rico): Legal and Practical Issues Facing a Financially Distressed Municipality” - Moderator, ABA Section on State and Local Government Law, Spring Meeting, 2016
  - “The Art of The Deal: Building and Financing Sports Arenas and Entertainment Venues,” ABA Section on State and Local Government Law, Spring Symposium, 2015
  - “Government in The Workplace, Of the Workplace, And for The Workplace: Who Can You Hire, What Can They Say About You, What Can You Do About It, And When Do You Have to Pay Them,” ABA Section on State and Local Government Law, Fall Council Meeting, 2014
  - “Legal Update, Michigan Concussion Legislation,” Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Annual Meeting, 2014
  - “Financial Challenges to Local Government CLE,” ABA Section on State and Local Government Law Fall Council Meeting, 2013
  - “Emergency Manager Laws as an Alternative to Bankruptcy in Local Government CLE,” ABA Annual Meeting, 2013
  - “Legal Consideration in National Governing Body (NGB) Compliance and Governance,” University of Michigan Sports Law Society, Going for the Gold Sports Law Symposium, 2012
  - “Non-Profit Corporation/Best Financial Practices Legal Updates for Local Associations,” Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Annual Meeting, 2012
  - “Non-Profit Corporation/Best Financial Practices Legal Updates for Local Associations,” Michigan Amateur Hockey Association Annual Meeting, 2011
  - “Adventures in City Management, The Right to Push the Send Button is Not Unlimited/Anonymous Internet Authors” Iowa City/County Management Association (IaCMA), 2011
  - “The New Letters to the Editor and Anonymous Internet Authors,” ICMA 96th Annual Conference, President’s Colloquium, 2010