



## Paula A. Opalewski

Associate

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Paula Opalewski is a civil litigation attorney representing leading insurance carriers on various matters involving premises liability, general liability and Michigan No-Fault. Her practice focuses on all aspects of litigation, including pre-suit investigation, discovery, motion practice and trial.

Paula has extensive litigation experience, including innumerable court appearances in a variety of courts. She ably handles depositions, case evaluation hearings and legal research, including novel issues. She is known for her ability to find that “needle in a haystack.” Paula is a talented writer with extensive drafting experience, including motions, briefs, summaries, and real property and business documents.

Before joining Wilson Elser, Paula worked at a well-known insurance defense firm and at a civil litigation firm. Her practice focused on real property matters, business litigation and corporate transactions. She also handled a wide variety of matters including business licensing, intellectual property, land use, creditors’ rights, attorney malpractice, employment litigation, construction litigation, traffic infractions, foreclosures and appeals.

During law school, Paula served as a law clerk at a prominent eminent domain defense firm that represented business and individual property owners.

### **Defense Litigation**

Paula enjoys a solid reputation in the legal community for her attention to detail and strong work ethic demonstrated through her extensive courtroom experience. She appears regularly for motion hearings, pre-trial hearings, settlement conferences and more in circuit and district courts throughout the area.

### **Real Property**

Paula handles real property matters as applied to individual and business litigation and

### **Services**

- Insurance & Reinsurance Defense
- Complex Tort & General Casualty
- Transportation
- Professional Liability & Services

transactions in a way that benefits her clients. In light of the real estate industry's continued integration with the capital markets and its increased vulnerability to litigation, she frequently works cross-practice with counterparts in Wilson Elser's Bankruptcy, Litigation, Business & Financial Transactions, Municipal/Local Government and Environmental practices.

## Education

- Michigan State University College of Law (J.D., 2018)
- Liberty University (B.S., 2014)
  - cum laude

## Bar Admissions

- Michigan

## Court Admissions

- U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Michigan
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Michigan

# Client Wins

## **Cook and Opalewski Secure Full Dismissal for Condo Association and President with Strategic Trial Motions**

William Cook (Partner- Detroit) and Paula Opalewski (Associate-Detroit) secured the dismissal of all claims in Mecosta County Circuit Court, Michigan, on behalf of a condominium association and its president. This case stemmed from a dispute at a residential condominium development site. The plaintiffs, owners of two properties with houses, brought claims against the condominium association, its president, the developer, and several neighbors in the development. The plaintiffs asserted three counts against the association: violation of the Michigan Nonprofit Corporation Act/Michigan Condominium Act (MCA), including alleged failure to permit inspection of the books and recds of the association; breach of the condominium bylaws; and claims of membership oppression. Following a bench trial that began in June 2024, the court granted Bill and Paula's motions for involuntary dismissal of two counts at the close of the plaintiffs' proofs in January 2025. The remaining count was dismissed in the judge's written opinion and order regarding the bench trial, issued on September 25, 2025, resulting in a complete defense victory for Wilson Elser's clients.