



John B. Gontrum

PARTNER

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TOWSON

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BIOGRAPHY

Mr. Gontrum is director of the Towson office of the firm and is co-chairman of the Real Estate Section and also the Real Estate Development, Leasing and Land Use Industry Group. He has over 35 years of experience representing industrial, commercial and residential developers, businesses, institutions and individuals on a wide variety of land use, zoning and development issues. His practice concentrates on Baltimore County land use and development with particular attention to issues arising in eastern Baltimore County and waterfront development.

RECOGNITIONS

- AV Peer Review Rated: Martindale-Hubbell
- Recognized in *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business*, published by Chambers and Partners, 2017-present
- Listed in *Best Lawyers in America*, 2010-present
 - *Best Lawyer's* "Lawyer of the Year" in the areas of Land Use and Zoning Law and Litigation: Land Use and Zoning, 2016
- Listed in *Maryland Super Lawyers*: 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Hall of Fame Inductee: Chesapeake Gateway Chamber of Commerce

PRACTICES & INDUSTRIES

Zoning and Land Use

Real Estate

Restaurant and Hospitality

EDUCATION

Duke University School of Law,
1976, J.D.

Duke University, 1973, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

Maryland

MEMBERSHIPS & ACTIVITIES

- Past President: Baltimore County Bar Association, 2004-2005
 - Board Member: Baltimore County Bar Foundation
 - Past Member: Baltimore County Revenue Authority
 - Fellow: Maryland State Bar Foundation
 - Past Chairman: Franklin Square Hospital Board of Directors
 - Treasurer: Friends for Grace C. Connolly, Baltimore County Register of Wills
 - Member: MBIA Land Development Council
 - Past President and Board Member: Essex-Middle River-White Marsh (Chesapeake Gateway) Chamber of Commerce
 - Past-President and Board Member: Eastern Baltimore Area/ Dundalk Chamber of Commerce
 - Past Member: Advisory Board Baltimore County Critical Area Commission
 - Past District Chairman: Boy Scouts of America, Chesapeake District
 - Past Chairman: Essex - Middle River Renaissance Steering Committee
 - Past Member: Baltimore County Planning Office Advisory Committees:
Executive Committee - Essex Community Conservation Committee; Chairman
- Greater Kingsville Community Conservation Committee; Southeastern
Economic Development Plan
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LAND USE, ZONING AND DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

- Community planning including participation on various economic and industrial planning committees for eastern Baltimore County
- Land use zoning including comprehensive and site rezoning, zoning special exceptions, variances and special hearings
- All phases of development plan proposals including subdivision, industrial and commercial development including Planned Unit Developments (PUDs) involving community input, development hearings and appeals and residential subdivision
- Environmental impacts including percolation testing, forest conservation and forest buffers, Chesapeake and Coastal Bay Critical Area Law, and waterfront development
- Adequate public facilities including water and sewer plan amendments, open space and county reservation
- Landmark preservation issues and Agricultural and Conservation Easements

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION ISSUES

- Negotiating, drafting and reviewing contracts, leases, easements as well as researching and reviewing title documents
- Review and drafting of condominium and homeowners' association documents
- Property tax negotiation and appeal