

The background of the slide features a photograph of a classical building facade, identified as City Hall, with a clock tower visible in the upper left. The image is divided into three overlapping triangular sections by white lines. The top-left triangle is a solid dark blue. The top-right triangle is a semi-transparent green. The bottom triangle is a semi-transparent light blue. The text "An Introduction to the CIVIL RIGHTS & GOVERNMENT LIABILITY GROUP" is overlaid on the green triangle in white, all-caps font.

## An Introduction to the CIVIL RIGHTS & GOVERNMENT LIABILITY GROUP

**MRR Law** is the leading public sector defense firm in the State of Ohio, working in partnership with public entities to address a full spectrum of civil rights and government liability issues. We bring a wide range of expertise and experience to our clients, providing legal advice ranging from issues of general governance to unique legal matters and circumstances. When a client engages us, we act quickly, providing efficient, precise, and cost-effective legal services.

# DEDICATED TO PUBLIC ENTITIES AND PUBLIC INTEREST



Attorneys at MRR Law represent counties, cities, villages, townships, school districts, mental health agencies, children services boards and other social service agencies, park districts and numerous other local and regional agencies. Since the firm's founding, we have provided counsel to more than 500 governmental entities.

For more than 40 years, MRR Law has successfully handled cases involving allegations of civil rights violations, Section 1983 claims, land use and zoning, police liability, general liability claims, child neglect and child abuse claims, school law, and employment matters. Our attorneys have also addressed matters related to public records and open meeting issues.

MRR Law's experience includes defending cases on behalf of public entities and their employees in claims of civil rights violations as guaranteed by the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. The firm has handled matters involving claims of jail suicide, police pursuit, false arrest, malicious prosecution, wrongful conviction, denial of medical care, excessive force by police officers including officer-involved shootings, and failure to properly train police officers. In addition, MRR Law has extensive experience in defending school districts and their employees in civil rights and employment matters.

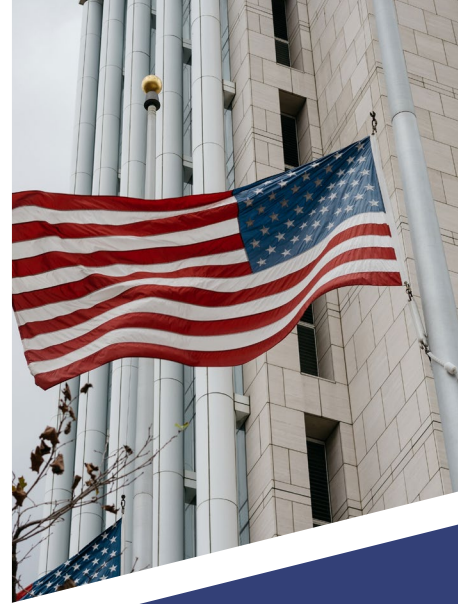
## What We Do and How We Do It

Our legal counsel encompasses all aspects of litigation. We are experienced in appellate advocacy in state and federal courts, including trials and amicus briefs. MRR Law has expertise in providing representation regarding Collective Bargaining and Labor/Management relations. And MRR Law guides government agencies in managing risk pre-suit to avoid litigation through policy, procedure and legislative review.

## Attorneys Dedicated to Public Sector Client Defense

Our Civil Rights & Government Liability legal team consists of attorneys who have practiced almost exclusively in the civil rights area for their entire careers, including several former assistant law directors and prosecutors, an appellate court specialist, and two attorneys who have consistently been named Best Lawyers in America for Civil Rights law. All told, the firm's attorneys have more than 170 years of experience in public sector defense.





#### **James A. Climer, Partner**

- 43 years of experience
- AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale–Hubbell Directory (2022)
- Ohio Super Lawyer – State, Local and Municipal Law (2022 – 2023)
- Law Director, Village of Oakwood (2017 – present)

#### **John D. Pinzone, Administrative Partner**

- 21 years of experience
- 11<sup>th</sup> District Court of Appeals, former Staff Attorney and Administrative Counsel

#### **Frank H. Scialdone, Partner**

- 21 years of experience
- AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale–Hubbell Law Directory (2022)
- Certified Specialist in Appellate Law, Ohio State Bar Association
- Ohio Super Lawyer – Appellate Law (2015 – 2022)

#### **Terry L. Williams, Senior Attorney**

- 17 years of experience
- Assistant Attorney General, Ohio Attorney General's Office
- Member, Ohio State Bar Association and Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

#### **John T. McLandrich, Partner**

- 40 years of experience
- AV® Preeminent™ rating from Martindale–Hubbell Directory (2022)
- Recognized by Best Lawyers for Civil Rights Law (2012 – 2022)
- Named "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers for Civil Rights Law – Cleveland (2014)
- Ohio Super Lawyer – Municipal Law (2016 – 2022)

#### **David Sipusic, Partner**

- 22 years of experience
- Advanced Title IX Administrator and Investigator Certification from Association of Title IX Administrators (ATIXA) (2014 – 2018)
- Third Party Independent Hearing Officer for due process claims including Section 504 disability plans
- Title IX Panelist, Higher Education Recruitment Consortium (HERC)

#### **Amy K. Herman, Attorney**

- 9 years of experience
- Ohio Super Lawyer "Rising Star" (2018 – 2021)
- Graduate, Ladder Down legal career development for women lawyers

#### **Edmond Z. Jaber, Attorney**

- 6 years of experience
- Member, Federal Bar Association, Ohio State Bar Association, Akron Bar Association, Cleveland Metropolitan Bar Association

### **REPRESENTATIVE SERVICES**

- Civil rights violations
- Section 1983 claims
- Land use and zoning
- Police liability
- School Law
- General liability
- Child neglect and child abuse
- Employment matters
- Employment discrimination
- Free speech and defamation
- Collective Bargaining and Labor/Management Relations





## Publications and Presentations

*Title IX Foundations* – Huron City Schools (November 2022)

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*Employment Practices Seminar* – City of North Olmsted (September 2022)

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*One Voice: Improving Campus Unity Through Policy* – MRR.com (September 2022)

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*Title IX Update* – MRR Law Webinar (September 2022)

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*Qualified Immunity Panel Discussion* – 8th District Judicial Conference (May 2022)

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*Protecting Privilege for Pre-Suit Investigations* – Your House Counsel (September 2021)

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*Legal Update* – Ohio Municipal Attorneys Association (March 2019)

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*Legal Update* – Northeast Ohio Law Directors Association (June 2019)

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*Employment Discrimination* – Ohio Turnpike Commission In-House Seminar (February 2018)

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*Recreational User Immunity Overview: A Safe Haven for Political Subdivisions that Freely Open Their Lands for Recreational Use* – Ohio Association of Civil Trial Attorneys, Quarterly Review, Vol. 9, Issue No. 4 (2015)

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*Police Mutual Aid, Hot Pursuit and Police Pitfalls* – Northeast Ohio Law Directors Association (2013)

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*Let's Do the Time Warp Again! – Can Independent Contractors Doing Government Work get Qualified Immunity* – MRR's Blog Decisive Defense (2013)

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*Municipal Law Update* – Ohio Municipal Attorney Association (Spring 2013 conference)

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*Know Your Defects* – OACTA 2012 Fall Quarterly. An examination of a political subdivision's immunity under R.C. § 2744.02(B)(4) the physical defect exception (2013)

**Interested in learning more about MRR Law's Civil Rights & Government Liability Group and the services we provide?**

John Pinzone, Administrative Partner | 404.287.8322 | [jpinzone@mrrlaw.com](mailto:jpinzone@mrrlaw.com)



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