

PUBLIC CORPORATION LAW

Theme Introduction

By Mary Joan Fales

The SBM Public Corporation Law Section is pleased to present this *Michigan Bar Journal* theme issue. As you will see from the diversity of articles included in this issue, practicing law in the public interest can—and often does—allow public lawyers to have a far greater effect on the lives of their fellow citizens and communities than headline court decisions.

Public lawyers are presented with unique opportunities to provide guidance, support innovation in the absence of definite authority, improve intergovernmental relations, and build confidence and trust in the operation of government and education institutions. Through its educational programs and advocacy, the Public Corporation Law Section acts as a forum for its members to share common issues and provide practice resources to address the ever-changing needs of the community.

This year, we commemorate the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. It is a reminder that public lawyers—in promoting ethical standards within municipal administration and governance in zoning, collective bargaining, use of the public right of way, procurement, and finances—are maintaining the rule of law. By ensuring that the work of the public lawyer and his or her client is open and transparent, fair application and enforcement of the law can be achieved. The articles in this edition are particularly relevant to these goals. ■



Mary Joan Fales has practiced with the Ann Arbor City Attorney's office for 18 years and is currently a senior assistant city attorney. She previously served as Monroe city attorney. She is a member of the SBM Public Corporation Law Section Council, having served twice as section chair (the first person to do so), and is a member of the American Bar Association.

