

JOHN J. ANASTASIO

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SUMMARY

Seasoned Municipal Attorney with 40+ Years of Legal Service to Government.

Strategic legal advisor with more than four decades of experience representing cities, elected officials, agencies, and boards across all facets of local government law. Skilled in litigation, policy drafting, governance counsel, and operational legal planning. Extensive experience in land use, code enforcement, Sunshine Law, employee discipline, procurement, and intergovernmental coordination.

Municipal & Administrative Law

- Code drafting, ordinance enforcement, quasi-judicial hearings, annexation law, Charter officer legal issues

Land Use, Planning & Growth Management

- Development agreements, zoning approvals, impact fees, interlocal utility dedications, conservation easements

Governance & Public Integrity

- Sunshine Law, ethics and voting conflicts, public records litigation, First Amendment issues, Board counsel

Labor & Employment Law

- Ch. 112 discipline, labor arbitration, PERC proceedings, ADA, FMLA, OSHA, grievance hearings

Litigation & Risk Management

- Section 1983, defamation, tort claims, public records litigation, law enforcement discipline, federal appeals

Strategic Legal Operations

- Legal department startup plans, regulatory frameworks, multi-million dollar settlements, emergency management

EXPERIENCE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT LAW EXPERIENCES:

CEO, Law Offices of John J. Anastasio

Delivered comprehensive legal counsel to city officials, employees, and agencies, covering legislative, contractual, regulatory, and litigation matters. Focused on local government law with an emphasis on cost-effective solutions and risk management in

high-growth environments. Key achievements and responsibilities include:

- Collaborated with municipal leadership to resolve complex land use, code enforcement, and employment matters using innovative litigation and negotiation strategies tailored to public priorities.
- Resolved real property and contract disputes through arbitration, mediation, and negotiated settlements in partnership with city attorneys and public manager.
- Advised elected officials on sensitive public interest issues, including regulation of sober homes and animal control ordinances, balancing legal mandates with political and community consideration.

Counsel to the Honorable Joann Faiella

Mayor, City of Port Saint Lucie

Commissioner, Saint Lucie Fire District

Served as daily counsel to the Mayor and Fire Commissioner, providing legal guidance on zoning, redevelopment, Sunshine Law compliance, and public records obligations.

- Provided counsel on labor discipline, quasi-judicial zoning hearings, and controversial land use matters involving group homes and community opposition.
- Defended Mayor in public records and Sunshine Law litigation, achieving full dismissal of all claims through effective pretrial strategy.
- Managed legal issues relating to facilities siting, procurement contracts, software licensing, and ethics compliance for both the City and Fire District.

Municipal Attorney's Office

Young Dorsey & Fisher

Represented five municipalities and a municipal utilities authority as lead attorney under Senator John Dorsey. Served as Special Counsel to Parsippany on labor and employment matters.

- Delivered legal advice during public meetings and represented municipalities in matters involving zoning, redevelopment, police discipline, eminent domain, utility rate setting, and tax appeals.
- Drafted ordinances and resolutions and ensured compliance with public records and open meetings laws.
- Advised on construction disputes, labor law, public employment issues, and affordable housing litigation.

Attorney for the statutory Mount Arlington, Municipal Investigating Committee

Directed a statutory police department investigation for the Mount Arlington governing body. Developed procedures for confidential hearings, drafted formal charges, and ensured compliance with statutory due process requirements.

Special Prosecutor for Mount Arlington

Prosecuted municipal code violations against the Police Chief and two officers, securing disciplinary outcomes through evidentiary hearings and administrative findings.

Authority Attorney for the Dover Housing Authority

Served as legal counsel to the Dover Housing Authority, managing Section 8, affordable housing programs, and associated liability and regulatory compliance issues.

New Jersey Superior Court - Eminent Domain Commissioner

Appointed by the Superior Court as an Eminent Domain Commissioner to determine just compensation in condemnation proceedings through legal and valuation analysis.

SELECTED LEGAL ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Represented clients in over 100 appellate matters before state and federal courts, resulting in multiple published opinions across constitutional law, local government discipline, and real property foreclosure.
- Successfully defended elected officials in high-profile public records and Sunshine Law litigation, including full dismissal of all claims against a sitting mayor.
- Authored operational blueprints for city attorney and general counsel offices in Florida municipalities and colleges, including Delray Beach, Indiantown, and Indian River State College.
- Directed an administrative rule challenge before the Florida Division of Administrative Hearings that led to the statewide revision of public records retention procedures.
- Prosecuted law enforcement misconduct as a special municipal prosecutor, handling statutory investigative proceedings through disciplinary outcomes.
- Appointed as Guardian ad Litem in a multi-million-dollar child settlement case, resulting in a court-ordered \$250,000 reduction in attorney fees to protect the minor's interest.

- Drafted interlocal agreements, development conditions, and impact fee policies for growth-focused municipalities navigating rapid expansion and land dedication disputes.
- Filed a petition for Writ of Certiorari to the United States Supreme Court and served as a member of the Florida Supreme Court's E-service Committee.

SKILLS & CORE COMPETENCIES

Legal Domains

Municipal & Administrative Law

- Code drafting, ordinance enforcement, Charter compliance, interlocal agreements
- Public records and Sunshine Law interpretation and litigation
- Quasi-judicial proceedings and regulatory compliance

Land Use, Growth & Infrastructure

- Development agreements, zoning approvals, annexation law
- Impact fees, utility dedications, conservation easements, site selection
- Coordination with planners and engineers in high-growth cities

Public Integrity & Governance

- Board counsel and executive legal advisory
- Ethics and voting conflicts, First Amendment litigation
- Policy development, governmental transparency, emergency management

Labor & Employment Law

- Chapter 112 discipline, PERC proceedings, collective bargaining
- ADA, FMLA, FLSA, EEOC, OSHA, HIPAA compliance
- Grievance resolution and arbitration

Litigation & Appellate Practice

- Section 1983 claims, defamation, civil rights, eminent domain
- Administrative law hearings, appellate advocacy
- Sunshine Law defense, public official representation

Strategic Legal Operations

- Legal department startup planning
- Operational policy frameworks and blueprint authorship
- Emergency management (Stafford Act), crisis law response

EDUCATION

Juris Doctor, Seton Hall University

Bachelor of Arts in Government with a minor in Labor Relations, Seton Hall University

Master of Public Administration Program (discontinued), New York University

Board Certification (planned) – City, County & Local Government Law

PROFESSIONAL ENGAGEMENT & RECOGNITION

- **Florida Bar Leadership**
Traffic Rules Committee (Chair, multiple terms)
Rules of Judicial Administration Committee
Member, City, County & Local Government Law Section
Member, Environmental & Land Use Section
- **Pro Bono & Public Service**
Multiple awards – Florida Rural Legal Services
Statewide pro bono nominee
- **Policy & Technical Affiliations**
Military Operations Research Society (MORS)
Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM)
Supreme Court E-Service Committee – Former Member
Saint Lucie County Republican Executive Committee

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Florida Supreme Court
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit
- United States Supreme Court
- Middle, Northern, and Southern Federal District Courts in Florida
- U.S. Court Southern District of Florida (Member of Arbitrator Panel)