Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C.
Erie • Pittsburgh • Jamestown, NY
814-459-2800 • www.kmgslaw.com

Patricia J. Kennedy

Counsel

As a member of the Governmental Practice Group, Pat focuses her practice on providing legal services to school districts, municipalities and public authorities. She has 36 years of legal experience, including work with local governments. She served in various capacities for Erie County for 26 years, concluding with an 11 year appointment as Chief Public Defender. A native of Edinboro, she is a graduate of Edinboro University of Pennsylvania and of the Dickinson School of Law. She is a member of the PennWest University Council of Trustees and formerly served as a member of the Edinboro University of Pennsylvania Council of Trustees.



pkennedy@kmgslaw.com

Phone: 814-923-4969

Practice Areas

- Governmental Practice

Education

- Dickinson School of Law, J.D.
- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, B.A., *cum laude*

Admissions

- Pennsylvania
- U.S. District Court, Western District of Pennsylvania

Representative Experience

- Served as Chief Public Defender for Erie County for 11 years
- Served as Assistant Erie County District Attorney for 11 years
- Represents Boroughs, Townships, and Sewer & Water Authorities in northwestern Pennsylvania as General Solicitor
- Represents multiple school districts in northwestern Pennsylvania as General Solicitor
- Represented local intermediate unit in IEP (Individualized Education Program) hearings

Representative Clients

- Clarion County Career Center
- Elk Creek Township

- Erie County Technical School
- Girard School District
- Girard Township
- Girard Water & Sewer Authority
- Iroquois School District
- McKean Borough
- Mill Village Borough
- Oil Creek Township
- Springboro Borough
- Titusville Area School District

Community and Professional Service

Professional Affiliations

- Erie County Bar Association
- Pennsylvania Bar Association
- Pennsylvania School Boards Association (PSBA), *Member*
- Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), *Member*
- Pennsylvania Municipal Authorities Association (PMAA), *Member*

Community and Professional Service

- PennWest University, *Council of Trustees*
- United Way of Erie County, *Board Member*
- Erie County Drug and Alcohol Coalition, *Former Board Member*
- Opportunities Unlimited, *Former Board Member*
- Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, *Former Member, Council of Trustees*
- Pennsylvania Supreme Court Juvenile Rules Committee, *Former Member*
- Gaudenzia Erie, *Former Advisory Board Member*
- Crime Victim Center of Erie County, *Former Board Member*

Presentations

Speaking Engagements

- Firm's Annual Municipal Law Symposium, April 2026: Legal Tips panelist
- Firm's Annual Municipal Law Symposium, April 2025: "Mock Public Meeting" panelist
- Pennsylvania Association of Municipal Administrators (PAMA), Annual Conference August 2024, Speaker on Right-To-Know Law
- Erie County Association of Boroughs Meeting, July 2024, Tips for Boroughs
- Firm's Annual Municipal Law Symposium, April 2024: "Tell It To the Judge" panelist; and Municipal Law Roundtable panelist
- Penn State Behrend Pre-Law Class, April 2024, speaker
- Firm's Annual Municipal Law Symposium, 2023: Considerations for School Districts and Police Departments Beyond the Safe-School Memorandum of Understanding
- Firm's Annual Municipal Law Symposium "Tips" Webinar, 2022

About Knox Law

Knox McLaughlin Gornall & Sennett, P.C. is a full service law firm that has provided practical solutions to businesses, families, public entities, and nonprofits for over 65 years. Our practice areas include ADR Services, Bankruptcy & Creditors' Rights, Business & Tax, Business Succession, Construction Law, Elder Law, Employee Benefits, Environmental Law, Estate Planning & Administration, Governmental Practice, Health Law, Intellectual Property & Technology, Labor & Employment, Litigation, Mergers & Acquisitions, Public Finance & Bonds, Real Estate, and Workers' Compensation.