



**FAUVER**

KEYSE-WALKER & DONOVAN  
A Legal Professional Association

**fkwdlaw.com**

**Founded in 1900, Fauver, Keyse-Walker & Donovan enthusiastically provides prompt, professional and cost-effective representation to clients in Lorain County and throughout Ohio. Our team has the resources and expertise to meet the needs of a wide range of clients, whether individuals, small or large businesses, tax exempt organizations or government entities.**

## ***Historical Perspective – Modern Vision***

Fauver, Keyse-Walker & Donovan is proud of its rich history of providing counsel to clients and community service throughout Lorain County and the State of Ohio for over a century.

Fauver & Fauver was founded by L.B. Fauver in 1900. He was joined by his sons King and Worth in the 1920s. Other Fauver family members, including Scribner Fauver and Worth Fauver Jr. led the firm into a 1984 merger with another Lorain County firm founded in 1915 by Guy B. Findley, who later became a Lorain County Common Pleas judge and donated the land for Findley State Park, and Don W. Myers, who later became Lorain County Prosecutor. The Fauver legacy continues today with Howard T. Lane, who is the son-in-law of Worth Fauver Jr.

The firm's attorneys have served variously as judges, county prosecutors, state legislators, law directors, city prosecutors, city council members, village solicitors and township officials, as well as leaders on a multitude of legal, civic, public and non-profit boards. FKWD lawyers have been instrumental in the establishment of entities that have become civic institutions, such as Lake Ridge Academy, Lorain County Community College, and the Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County. FKWD lawyers continue to serve in leadership positions on both the local and state levels, and many of our business clients have evolved into major regional employers with the assistance of the firm.

Although Fauver, Keyse-Walker & Donovan was founded in an age before the widespread use of electricity and automobiles, it has kept pace with advances in the practice of law and technology. Today, FKWD lawyers continually strive to better and more effectively serve firm clients by staying on the cutting edge of technology to provide efficiencies in firm administration, service, research and communication.



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**Kevin Wm. Donovan** is a shareholder in the Firm. He obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1970 and his Juris Doctor from Boston University School of Law in 1973. He is licensed to practice law in Massachusetts, Ohio and Colorado and to practice before the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio, U.S. Court of Military Appeals and U.S. Tax Court. He is a former Air Force Judge Advocate and Assistant Professor, Department of Law, U.S. Air Force Academy. Mr. Donovan is a Past President of the Lorain County Bar Association and a past Chair of the Ohio State Bar Association's Corporate Counsel Section. He currently serves as a member of the LCBA's Bar Admissions Committee, the OSBA's Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee and the OSBA's Corporate Counsel Section. In addition, Mr. Donovan serves on the OSBA's Board of Governors and is a Fellow of the Ohio State Bar Foundation.

As part of his community and charitable activities, Mr. Donovan serves on the Board of the Lorain County Community Foundation, as the Vice-Chair of the Lorain County Workforce Development Board and as the Vice President of Kids in Flight, Inc.

Mr. Donovan devotes his practice to Business Acquisitions, Succession Planning, Business Organizations and Tax Exempt Organization Law.

Mr. Donovan and his wife Linda reside in Amherst, are the parents of three daughters, Kelly, Kristen and Kimberly, and have four grandchildren, Elise, Anna, Josephina and Colin.



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**Howard T. Lane** is a shareholder in FKWD. He obtained his undergraduate degree from Ohio Wesleyan University in 1990 and his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1993. Mr. Lane has been admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the United States Sixth District Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Ohio State and Lorain County Bar Associations. Mr. Lane has been a member of the Lorain County Visitor's Bureau Board of Directors since 2010 and the Avon Lake Library Board of Directors since 2012.

Mr. Lane was admitted to practice law in the State of Ohio in 1993. He started his legal career as an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Canton, Ohio. Mr. Lane's public employer experience also includes acting as an Assistant Law Director for the City of Canton and an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney in the civil division of the Stark County Prosecutor's Office. As an Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Mr. Lane provided litigation and legal services to numerous county boards, elected officials and agencies. Mr. Lane has been general counsel for the Elyria City School District Board of Education since 2012.

Mr. Lane's current law practice focuses on litigation - primarily business and real estate litigation. Mr. Lane's real estate practice includes lease and purchase transactions, easement and water diversion disputes and land use issues. He has had extensive experience in construction law, including mechanics lien disputes, defective condition litigation and contract formation. His twenty years of litigation experience includes representing private and public clients in both state and federal courts.

Mr. Lane lives in Avon Lake, Ohio with his wife Laura and son Charlie.



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**James R. White** obtained his undergraduate degree from the University of Akron in 2003 and his law degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 2007, where he graduated magna cum laude. Mr. White has been admitted to practice before the Ohio Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio and the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He is a member of the Ohio State and Lorain County Bar Associations. His community service includes the Board of Directors of the Elyria Rotary Club, where he oversees programs dedicated to serving disadvantaged youth in Lorain County; as well as the Board of Directors of the Firelands Association for the Visual Arts.

Mr. White has developed experience in the courtroom by dedicating his practice to diverse litigation matters. Mr. White has represented clients in state and federal court and has practiced before administrative agencies, such as the Ohio State Personnel Board of Review and the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Development. Mr. White represents clients in trademark and copyright matters before the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The majority of Mr. White's practice is dedicated to an array of commercial litigation matters.

Mr. White was selected as an Ohio Super Lawyers Rising Star for the years 2014 and 2015.

Mr. White lives in Carlisle Township with his wife Tara and children, Parker and Lucy.



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We represent a diverse range of businesses, from small start-ups and non-profits to large companies that do business across the globe. Our business law attorneys provide advice on a wide range of matters including entity selection, business acquisitions and sales, and business succession planning. We pride ourselves on giving our clients practical and proactive advice, and we assist our clients in formulating creative solutions to legal issues that impact their businesses.

**Our available services include:**

- Entity selection
- Capital structuring and financing
- Shareholder and Operating Agreements
- Employment Contracts
- Corporate record book maintenance and updates
- Employee fringe benefit plans
- General contract and document preparation
- Advice on employment relations matters
- Mergers, acquisitions, sales and restructurings
- Stock redemptions, business liquidations and distributions
- Business succession planning
- Purchase and sale of commercial real estate
- Tax planning for closely held business and their owners
- Forming non-profit entities and obtaining recognition as tax-exempt



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Our litigation attorneys are experienced advocates who vigorously represent our clients' interests in the often-difficult process of litigation. We provide representation and advice in civil proceedings from administrative hearings to trials and appeals in State and Federal courts.

**Our available services include:**

- Pre-suit representation and negotiations
- Administrative hearings
- Federal Court trials and appeals
- State Court trials and appeals
- Alternative dispute resolution representation including arbitrations and mediations
- Business Litigation
- Contract Litigation
- Real estate Litigation
- Annexation, planning and zoning proceedings
- Employment Litigation
- Construction Litigation
- Personal injury and tort claims
- Landlord/Tenant Litigation
- Insurance coverage Litigation
- Libel and slander
- Education law for public and private institutions
- Probate litigation, including will contests, trust and will construction, objections to inventory, and claims against estates
- Construction law for contractors, subcontractors and material suppliers

Fauver, Keyse-Walker & Donovan represents individuals, developer/builders, landlords, and title insurers in real estate transactions, administrative proceedings, and trials and appeals on real estate matters at all levels.



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# Employment, Workers' Compensation and Labor Law

Employers face complex legal problems on a daily basis. Handling personnel decisions in a legal manner that also makes business sense requires sound legal advice. We represent public and private employers throughout the complete spectrum of labor and employment law issues, including preventative training, collective bargaining, mediation, grievance and arbitration proceedings, administrative hearings, employment litigation in all courts, and workers compensation matters.

## **Our available services include:**

- Employment policies and manuals
- Management and employee training
- Counseling regarding personnel management strategies
- Employee discipline and termination
- Workers' compensation administrative hearings
- Workers' compensation court appeals
- Defense of violations of specific safety requirements (VSSR)
- Union and labor relations/collective bargaining
- Workplace safety and OSHA compliance
- Executive and employment contracts
- Administrative actions before the Ohio Civil Rights Commission
- Administrative actions before the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
- Alternative dispute resolution
- Unemployment claims



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# Estate Planning & Probate

We will develop and implement an estate plan to fit your family's unique needs, maximize tax saving opportunities and protect your assets. We take pride in providing you and your family with caring, compassionate counsel when dealing with the death of a loved one during the probate administration or trust administration process.

## **Our available services include:**

- Preparation of Wills
- Preparation of Revocable and Irrevocable Trusts
- Preparation of Family Limited Partnerships and Family Limited Liability Companies
- Preparation of estate planning documents for the high net worth client
- Preparation of Powers of Attorney
- Preparation of Living Wills and Durable Powers of Attorney for Healthcare
- Charitable giving and planning
- Elder Law planning
- Tax planning and tax advice
- Administration of Probate Estates and Trust Estates
- Preparation of Federal and State Estate tax returns
- Probate Court litigation including Will and Trust Contests, Objections to Inventory and related court proceedings



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# Public Entity Representation

Public entities deal with a minefield of regulations, laws and ethical considerations that do not apply to private companies or individuals. Complex legal issues that arise must not only be handled within the context of such considerations, but also in an open manner, often under strict public scrutiny. We act as general counsel and provide advice and representation to public entities such as municipalities, water and sewer districts, ambulance districts and school districts concerning a diverse array of issues and practice areas.

## **Our available services include:**

- Representation and advice at Board meetings
- Open meetings laws
- Public records compliance
- Employment issues
- Real estate transactions
- Board, management and employee training
- Litigation in state and federal courts
- Drafting of resolutions and contracts
- Administrative actions
- Construction law
- Right of way, annexation and easement issues
- Student expulsion hearings
- Labor law and proceedings before the Ohio State Employment Relations Board (SERB)
- Proceedings before the Ohio State Personnel Board of Review (OSPBR)
- Real estate tax valuation proceedings
- Tax and other debt collection
- Zoning and land use proceedings



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Issues involving real estate are wide-ranging and complex. Whether you are a landlord, a developer, or an individual homeowner, our attorneys have the knowledge and experience to assist you in transactions, zoning and planning, and litigation on real estate matters in all courts.

**Our available services include:**

- Contracts for purchase and sale, and implementation of transactions
- Document preparation, including deeds, mortgages, loan agreements, easements, licenses, land installment contracts, leases, mechanics' liens, options, homeowners associations, declarations of condominium, and restrictive covenants
- Annexation proceedings
- Planning and zoning proceedings, including appeals
- Title claims and title insurance matters
- Adverse possession claims
- Quiet title litigation
- Foreclosure
- Broker and agency matters, including listing documents
- Encroachment and boundary litigation
- Partition litigation
- Mechanics' lien litigation, including lien foreclosure
- Landlord tenant litigation, including commercial and residential evictions



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