

# WILENTZ

—ATTORNEYS AT LAW—

WILENTZ, GOLDMAN & SPITZER, P.A.

## Donna M. Jennings

Co-Chair, Land Use Group

Shareholder

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### Practices

Land Use  
Environmental  
Real Estate  
Redevelopment  
Cannabis Law \*

### Education

J.D., Seton Hall University School  
of Law, 1995

B.A., Rutgers University, 1986

### Clerkship

Honorable Robert J. Quackenboss,  
Superior Court of New Jersey,  
Chancery Division, 1995-1996

### Admissions

New Jersey, 1995

U.S. District Court for the District of  
New Jersey, 1996

United States Court of Appeals for  
the Third Circuit, 2009

### Memberships

Middlesex County Bar Association  
New Jersey Builders Association,  
Land Use and Redevelopment  
Committee and Affordable Housing  
Task Force

National Association of Office and  
Industrial Properties

Donna M. Jennings is a shareholder at Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. and co-chair of the firm's Land Use group, a member of the Management Committee, and the firm's vice president. Ms. Jennings has handled litigation related to the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act (RLUIPA) on behalf of individuals and institutions who were discriminated against by unfair zoning codes and landmarking laws. With regard to her affordable housing practice, both public and private entities seek from Ms. Jennings' advice on compliance and regulations issues in connection with complex projects, ranging from site acquisition, through construction and permanent financing.

For over 20 years, Ms. Jennings has represented clients in land use approvals at all governmental levels, as well as in environmental and regulatory matters, including site plan approvals, subdivisions, variances, rezoning applications, environmental permits, access permits, and negotiations of agreements with governmental entities related to land development. She also handles litigation in both State and Federal Courts related to Right to Farm and Prerogative Writs matters. A selection of projects she has worked on include healthcare facilities, distribution centers, office parks, hotels, religious institutions, electric generating facilities, petroleum terminals, refineries, service stations, automotive dealerships, fast food restaurants and solar farms, in addition to a variety of residential, commercial, manufacturing, and other industrial projects. Prior to joining the firm, she served as a judicial clerk for the Honorable Robert J. Quackenboss, Chancery Division, Middlesex County.

Ms. Jennings is a frequent speaker in professional forums, including ICLE, Lorman Education Services, NBI, and the Atlantic Builders Convention. She has also published numerous articles and is a contributing author to the Land Use Chapter in *Commercial Real Estate Transactions in New Jersey (ICLE 2003, 2006 & 2010)*.

In 2014, the New Jersey Supreme Court appointed Ms. Jennings to serve a 4-year term on the District VIII Fee Arbitration Committee and in 2017

International Council of Shopping  
Centers

New Jersey Women Lawyers  
Association, Board of Directors,  
Trustee-At-Large and Co-Chief  
Financial Officer

she was appointed to serve as Chair.

In 2017, Ms. Jennings received the Professional Lawyer of the Year Award from the New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law. Since 2015, she has been selected for inclusion in the New Jersey *Super Lawyers* list in the field of Land Use, and she has been recognized by *Chambers USA* since 2021 in the field of Land Use. In addition, she has been distinguished with a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent Peer Review Rating, was included in the list of "50 Women of Influence" in New Jersey in the commercial real estate sector by *Real Estate New Jersey* magazine, and was named to the *New Jersey Law Journal's* "40 Under 40" list. Ms. Jennings was selected for inclusion in the 2022 and 2025 *Best Lawyers in America* lists in the area of Land Use and Zoning Law.

Chambers USA® (<https://chambers.com/about-us/methodology>) is published by Chambers and Partners.

Super Lawyers® ([http://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection\\_process\\_detail.html](http://www.superlawyers.com/about/selection_process_detail.html)) is published by Thomson Reuters.

Martindale-Hubbell® (<https://www.martindale.com/ratings-and-reviews/>) is published by Internet Brands, Inc.

Best Lawyers in America® (<https://www.bestlawyers.com/methodology>) is published by Best Lawyers.

The New Jersey Law Journal "New Leaders of the Bar" list (<https://www.law.com/njlawjournal/2022/08/11/new-jersey-legal-awards-honorees-announced/>), formerly known as "40 Under 40," is published by ALM Media Properties, LLC.

A description of the selection processes may be accessed via the above links. The aforementioned organizations are private peer review organizations, not court-specific, public certification vehicles. No aspect of this advertisement has been submitted to or approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey.

\*Cannabis Law Disclaimer: Per federal law, under the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana is categorized as a Schedule I controlled substance. Possession, use, distribution, and/or sale of cannabis is a Federal crime and is subject to related Federal policy, regardless of any state law that may authorize certain marijuana activity. Compliance with state marijuana law does not equal compliance with federal law. Legal advice provided by Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. is designed to counsel clients regarding the validity, scope, meaning, and application of existing and/or proposed cannabis law. Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. will not provide guidance or assistance in circumventing or violating Federal or state cannabis law or policy, and any advice provided by Wilentz, Goldman & Spitzer, P.A. should not be construed as such.