

Charles R. Eckenstahler

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Chuck has a 35- year career as a land use planner, economic development consultant and real estate feasibility analyst. In 2007, as part of his retirement strategy, he merged his municipal consulting practice with McKenna Associates, Michigan's largest municipal planning consulting firm.

He continues to work full-time, concentrating on more complex land planning and real estate development projects drawing upon his experience in land use planning, use of government economic development incentive programs and real estate feasibility analysis, to help define land development projects that are both financially feasible and meet governmental requirements and expectations.

In addition to McKenna Associates, Eckenstahler serves as a consultant advisor to several architecture, environmental and civil engineering firms including the Benton Harbor based Wightman and Associates and the Ohio based Fanning/Howey Associates, Inc., one of largest school architectural design and construction management firms in the United States.

Eckenstahler holds a Master Degree in Planning and another in Businesses Administration. He has taught graduate level Urban and Regional Planning at Western Michigan University, helped originate the Certificate in Economic Development Program and taught economic development classes in the Graduate School of Business at Purdue North Central. In 2008, he was appointed to the faculty of the Lewis University (Illinois) Lowell Stall Center for Commercial Real Estate Studies teaching the Commercial Real Estate Certificate program "cap stone" class titled "Real Estate Development and Community Design Principles". He also serves on the faculty of the Michigan Association of Realtors Land Use Leadership Academy where he annually teach a class titled "Conservation Subdivision Design".



He has earned a number of professional certifications including those from the American Planning Association (AICP), International Economic Developers Association (CED), State of Michigan Professional Planners Certification (PCP) and has held both real estate broker and appraisal licenses. In 2006 he was honored as Michigan's Outstanding Consulting Planner, by the Michigan Association of Planning.

Eckenstahler served as a County Planning Director (Berrien County, Michigan) and Regional Planning Director (Southwestern Michigan Commission) for more than eleven years. He managed a real estate consulting practice for the Detroit office of a national accounting firm and was as vice-president of a Florida based real estate consulting firm. He also served a four-year term on the Board of Directors of the Michigan Farm Bureau, Michigan Farmland and Community Alliance, a Land Conservancy dedicated to the promotion of farmland preservation.

Eckenstahler's work has been recognized with number state and national awards including the *2005 Michigan Governor's Award for Historic Preservation*, *1995, 2001 and 2003 Michigan Association Planning (MAP) Citizen Planner of the Year*, *1994 national marketing awards from the National Council for Urban Economic Development Council (CUED) and American Economic Development Council (AEDC) and 1998 Indiana Association of Cities and Towns Achievement Award.*

An active researcher and author, he has published more than 250 articles on land use, real estate and economic development matters and made contributions to two economic development educational books.