

HEATHER A. MCCARTHY, MPA, JD

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CAREER PROGRESSION

City Attorney (2020 – Present)
City of Hobart, IN

Principal (2020 – Present)
Law Office of
Heather A. McCarthy

Private Attorney (2013 – 2020)
Anthony DeBonis Jr. & Associates

Vice President (2003 – 2013)
Mental Health Services Nonprofit

CURRENT BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Board Chair
Methodist Hospitals Foundation

Executive Board Member
Methodist Hospitals

CIVIL & MUNICIPAL ATTORNEY

Community-driven attorney, listening and advocating for clients and constituents

Trusted and experienced attorney with 10+ years of success in civil and municipal law within the state of Indiana. Combine legal expertise with executive leadership experience in a nonprofit to successfully navigate government relations.

Core Strengths & Career Achievements:

- ❖ **Federal, State & Local Laws:** Maintain strong knowledge of current, new, and proposed regulations and regularly work side-by-side with city officials and departments to advise on policy, processes, and litigation.
- ❖ **Nonprofit & Government Sectors:** 16 years within a nonprofit, demonstrating success in driving operational and financial objectives while maintaining strong program leadership, maintaining compliance, and securing funding. Current City Attorney, providing legal opinions across municipalities.
- ❖ **Consumer Advocacy:** Passionate about consumer advocacy, specifically in the pharmaceutical sector. Fight and speak up for the client when they can't speak for themselves. Testified in front of the FDA, litigated issues for those harmed by the pharmaceutical industry, and established KnowRisks.org.
- ❖ **Executive Leadership:** Demonstrate a high emotional quotient as a leader, motivating the team and gaining buy-in to work towards a common goal. Develop and nurture individual strengths to maintain a positive culture.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

CITY ATTORNEY | CITY OF HOBART, IN

2020 – Present

Oversee the daily operations within the multi-practice law office, including making determinations for outsourcing legal work. Provide legal opinions and advice on ethics to the Mayor, City Council, City Manager, Department of Directors, and other city staff. Coordinate claims and litigation for suits against the city, including property damage and Worker's Compensation. Advise the City Council, City Manager, and departments on new/proposed state and federal legislation.

Selected Achievements:

- Represented the city in administrative hearings and dispute resolutions and responded to inquiries by the City Council and City Manager regarding legal ramifications of pending litigation.
- Maintained up-to-date on all federal, state, and local laws, ordinances, and court decisions to accurately advise on matters and provide legal opinions for city departments, governing boards, and other officials.
- Provided legal opinions for city departments, governing boards, and officials at City Council meetings, committee meetings, public hearings, and staff meetings.
- Named **2022 Northwest Indiana Most Influential Woman Lawyer**.
- Prosecuted all ordinance violation cases, including traffic, housing, building, and fire code violations; prepared legal documents for cases, including jury trials, condemnation, sales and use tax.
- Interviewed witnesses, victims, attorneys, and law enforcement officials and presented arguments in court.

PRINCIPAL | LAW OFFICE OF HEATHER A. MCCARTHY

2020 – Present

Maintain a private practice handling civil litigation, municipal, not-for-profit law, bankruptcy, and estate planning. Provide consulting on health advocacy, state, and federal regulatory law, and grant procurement.

PRIVATE ATTORNEY | ANTHONY DEBONIS JR. & ASSOCIATES, ATTORNEYS AT LAW, LLC

2013 – 2020

Operated as a Private Attorney within the law and consulting practice, focused on civil, criminal, municipal, nonprofit, and bankruptcy law. Demonstrated a strong understanding of legal research, writing/drafting memos, correspondence, and legal briefs. Served as the Civil Litigation Counsel for the City of Hobart, leading to acceptance of a City Attorney position.

Private Attorney, Selected Achievements:

- Effectively negotiated favorable outcomes for clients in adversarial settings; maintained client satisfaction through consistent communication and setting clear, realistic outcome expectations.
- Gained expertise in drug/adverse events, including reporting protocols to the FDA. Testified before the FDA and pharmaceutical industry on dangerous drugs, resulting in the addition of black box warning labels.

VICE PRESIDENT | MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES NONPROFIT

2003 – 2013

Joined the organization as a Program Coordinator overseeing after-school youth programs across the county. Promoted to Network Administrator, serving as a grant specialist in the area of health promotion and substance abuse prevention for 4 years. Promoted again to Vice President, overseeing operational and financial objectives for the organization. Completed a Master of Public Administration and then a JD while in the role.

Selected Achievements:

- Effectively managed an annual budget of \$80M+ with individual department budgets of \$5M+. Demonstrated strong fiscal decision-making and was seen as a partner to the governing Board of Directors to drive strategic objectives.
- Served as the liaison to state and federal funding sources and maintained compliance with all contractual and legal requirements; represented the organization and partner organization in public speaking engagements.
- Owned the grant process from state and federal funders, including mobilizing community agencies and volunteers to develop and launch a framework of community-based coalitions to manage and carry out funding objectives.
- Named one of the **2012 Professionals to Watch** by BusIness Magazine, Northwest Indiana/Chicagoland Summer edition.
- Nominated by the state of Indiana in 2004 and 2012 to represent local projects at the National Service to Science Project sponsored by Health and Human Services.
- Created curriculum for approval from the National Registry of Evidenced-Based Programs and Practices (NREPP) as a federally designated evidenced-based program.

EDUCATION

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW

Juris Doctorate (JD)

INDIANA UNIVERSITY NORTHWEST

Master of Public Administration (MPA)

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Master of Arts (MA) & Bachelor of Arts (BA) in English Literature

PAST BOARD APPOINTMENTS

- Gary, IN Chamber of Commerce, Executive Board Member
- Gary, IN Neighborhood Services, Executive Board Member
- Gary, IN Chamber of Commerce Education Committee, Co-Chair
- Lake County Tobacco Prevention & Cessation Coalition, Chair
- Lake County Coordinating Counsel, Executive Board Member
- Miller Aquatorium Society, Board Member
- Miller Citizens Corporation, Board Member
- Ivy Tech Northwest Region, Trustee
- WDS Inc., Executive Board Member
- Northwest Indiana Arts Association/South Shore Arts, Executive Board Member
- Calumet College of St. Joseph, Executive Board Member