

JENNIFER MESSER

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

July, 2023 -Present *Executive Director and Legal Counsel, Central Indiana Regional Development Authority (CIRDA)*

- In one (1) year, tripled the membership of CIRDA from eight (8) central-Indiana communities to twenty-four (24) communities that include the City of Indianapolis and represent over one-third of the state's population.
- Oversee and coordinate professional staffs, including economic development directors and planners of member communities, on CIRDA work, including the Indiana Economic Development Corporation's ("IEDC") READI 2.0 grant and the EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant ("CPRG").
- Procure and oversee subject matter experts assisting with READI and the EPA CPRG.
- Collaborate with regional stakeholders like the IEDC, Indianapolis Motor Speedway, Indianapolis Zoo, Central Indiana Corporate Partnership, Indiana University Health and locale not-for-profits concerning the vision, economic development and equality goals for central-Indiana.

2010 - Present *Economic Development Legal Counsel, City of Fishers, Hamilton County, Indiana*

- As Economic Development Counsel to the City of Fishers, develop and implement economic development programs deploying more than \$1 billion in tax increment, bond proceeds, training grants and community development construction grants that resulted in more than 10,079 jobs and new, private investment of nearly \$2.8 billion.
- Structure, negotiate and draft economic development agreements that culminate in good-paying jobs and that have transformed Fishers into a successful hub for biotech and biopharma, with more than 1,300 jobs and \$750 million in new capital investment in the last five (5) years.
- For fourteen (14) consecutive years, deploy and implement incentives that allowed Fishers, each year, to exceed the previous year's economic development records as well as population and educational attainment growth.
- Oversee, advise and structure public procurement using request for proposals, request for qualifications, public bidding and quote procedures.
- Strategically purchase and dispose of City real and personal property assets.
- Draft City ordinances and resolutions, including Fishers' 2014 ordinance that serves as the foundation for Fishers' transition from a town to city governance structure.
- Advise on land use matters, including zoning, platting and re-platting, vacations and designation of rights-of-way and grants of easements.

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2007-2011 *Town Attorney, Morristown, Indiana*

- Advise and draft ordinances and resolutions.
- Oversee land use matters, including zoning, platting and re-platting, vacations and designation of rights-of-way and grants of easements.
- Oversee sewer rate changes and construction of public infrastructure improvements, including a mechanical wastewater treatment facility.
- Attend and advise during public meetings of the Council, Redevelopment Commission and Planning Commission.

2001-2003 *Associate, Barnes & Thornburg, Indianapolis* **2005-2006 *Of Counsel, Barnes & Thornburg, Indianapolis***

- Represent clients in complex litigation involving commercial and business disputes in products liability, fiduciary duty, intellectual property and real estate matters.
- Advise and represent large, national retailer on personnel matters.
- Represent employers in Title VII, ADA and discrimination matters pending before state and federal Equal Employment Commissions.
- Represent large, national media client in more than forty (40) defamation and libel actions in Indiana state and federal courts.

EDUCATION

1998 - 2001 University of Tennessee College of Law, Doctor of Jurisprudence, with honors.

1994 - 1997 University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Bachelor of Arts, *magna cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Double Major in Political Science and Speech Communication.

ACTIVITIES

2018-2022 *Washington Tennis Education Foundation, Washington, D.C.*, Board of Directors, Executive Committee, Secretary.

2013 – Current *Congressional Club, Washington, D.C.*, Member, former President, First Vice-President, and Host of the annual First Lady's Luncheon.

Girls Inc. of Shelbyville/Shelby County, Shelbyville, Indiana, Board Chair.

Illustrator of *Hoosier Heart*, a book about Indiana's people, geography and culture.