

July 9 – Telecommunications – TC13
Cell Tower Zoning : Federal Laws Limiting Local Authority

SPEAKER BIOS

John W. Pestle is the Chair of the Telecommunications Group at the Varnum law firm, and is admitted to practice in Michigan and Arizona. He represents municipalities and private property owners nationwide on cell tower leases and zoning and other telecommunications matters. John is a graduate of Harvard College, Yale Graduate School, and the University of Michigan Law School. Among his many qualifications, John held an FCC license to work on radio, TV and ship radar transmitters and was Chair of the Municipal Lawyers Section of the Michigan Bar. He has received the "Member of the Year" award from the National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors, and a "Special Award of Merit" from the Michigan Municipal League for his work representing municipalities on cable and telecommunications matters. For the Varnum web page on cell towers go to www.varnumlaw.com/celltower and for John's cell tower blog go to www.varnumlaw.com/blogs/cell-phone-tower/

Robert (“Tripp”) May, Partner, specializes in telecommunications infrastructure, and represents both public agencies and private landlords in regulatory and transactional matters.

Tripp advises local governments and public agencies on the scope of local authority in wireless facilities siting, on private property, public land and in the rights-of-way. He drafts and revises wireless ordinances, and counsels government staff and officials on federal and state rules for permit application processing. In addition, Tripp assists local governments develop permit applications, planner reference guides and other non-legislative materials for compliance with new federal regulations.

His transactional practice focuses solely on representing landlords — both public and private. Tripp negotiates and drafts leases, licenses, easements, assignments, pole-attachment agreements, and other transfers related to wireless and other telecommunications infrastructure. He also assists landlords administer, enforce and amend existing infrastructure agreements.

Tripp regularly speaks on panel discussions for governments, planning associations, wireless associations and at wireless facility conferences. He also writes articles on the subject for newspapers, trade press and other publications.

He devotes significant pro bono efforts to represent public agencies in federal wireless proceedings. This year, he co-authored the amicus curie brief in *Montgomery County v. FCC* on behalf of the League of California Cities et al. In 2014, Tripp was recognized by the States of California and Nevada, National Association of Telecommunications Officers and Advisors (SCAN NATOA) as its Member of the Year for his outstanding pro bono federal advocacy on behalf of California local governments in Federal Communications Commission rulemaking proceedings.

Mr. May is admitted to practice by the State Bar of California.