



# KALAMAZOO COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance...

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Contact: Nijja Bouie, 269.383.8651.

## **Kalamazoo County Appoints Angelina Barnes as New Corporation Counsel**

KALAMAZOO, Mich.: The Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners appointed Angelina Barnes as its new Corporation Counsel, effective October 11. Barnes will provide legal services to the Commissioners to ensure that the County complies with all applicable laws, minimizes liability exposure, and maximizes the effectiveness of County resources. The County began its search for in-house corporation counsel representation early this year.

Barnes joins Kalamazoo County from Auto-Owners Insurance Company, where she was a Home Office Legal Division Attorney, focusing on claims and litigation oversight and providing legal advice in human resources, employment law, life insurance, contracts, and first and third-party property damage and bodily injury claims.

"We are thrilled to add Angelina to our team representing county government as Corporation Counsel," said County Administrator/Controller Kevin A. Catlin. "She will bring incredible expertise to this role, align synergies in county government, and enhance civil legal services provided by her office. We look forward to a long-lasting partnership, particularly her proactive mindset."

Barnes has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Relations, a Juris Doctor, and is a licensed attorney in Michigan and Minnesota. She also has experience in private practice as an Attorney for Michael R. Kluck & Associates, providing employment and labor law legal services to both public and private employers.

"The goal of the Board was to secure a trusted advisor to guide decisions, help manage crises and risks, and provide sound legal and operational advice on the execution of County business," stated Board Chair Mike Quinn. "The County is able to be more efficient, cost- and time-wise, when we have counsel in-house for such advice."

Barnes' career has also included leadership roles as the Statewide Director of Internal Control and Accountability for the State of Minnesota, Executive Director of the Minnesota Board of Psychology, and Assistant Attorney General with the Minnesota Office of the Attorney General.

"I am excited to serve Kalamazoo County and grateful for the opportunity to work with incredible employees and leadership and to create a foundation for a safe and healthy community." Barnes stated, "The pursuit of "Extraordinary Governance" is a service-focused model that speaks to me personally; This team is committed to creating opportunities for all citizens to enjoy peace of mind and enhance the quality of life through needed services and programs in our community."

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