

Michele R. Donato graduated from Rutgers Law School in 1977, where she was an editor of the Rutgers Law Review. She clerked for the Honorable Merritt Lane, Jr., who handled the prerogative writ calendar for Monmouth County.

Ms. Donato has represented municipal agencies, developers and citizen groups throughout her career. Her practice is almost exclusively devoted to land use, historic preservation and environmental law.

She currently represents the Planning Boards in the Boroughs of Shrewsbury and Roosevelt and the City of Plainfield and is special counsel to the Holmdel Township Planning Board, the City of Cape May and the Boroughs of Bay Head, Haworth and Stockton. She represented the Tinton Falls Planning Board for eighteen years. She frequently acts as special counsel for land use, environmental and historic preservation matters.

From 1990 to 1999, Ms. Donato served on the Board of Directors of Preservation New Jersey, the statewide nonprofit organization for historic preservation and from 1992 to 1994, she served as President of the organization. She served as Assistant Counsel to New Jersey Planning Officials from 1992 to 1999 and is currently Associate Counsel, being the first woman to hold these positions. Ms. Donato is also an Adjunct

Professor with Rutgers University, Bureau of Local Government Services, and she teaches and lectures frequently for organizations and agencies throughout the State. In 2005, on invitation, Ms. Donato participated in the prestigious Oxford University Roundtable. In 2006, Ms. Donato received the Monsignor Harding Award of Merit from Saint Peter's School. The League of Women Voters also honored her with an award for her work in preserving the environment.