

Michele R. Donato graduated from Rutgers Law School, 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.

Ms. Donato is General Counsel to New Jersey Planning Officials and a Trustee for the Institute of Local Government Attorneys. Ms. Donato was named Super Lawyer in 2011 and 2012. Ms. Donato is also the Ocean County Chair for the Citizens' Campaign. She is an Adjunct Professor with Rutgers University, Bureau of Local Government Services, and she teaches and lectures for organizations and agencies throughout the State. Ms. Donato received the William Cox Award for Excellence in Land Use.

Ms. Donato participated in the prestigious Oxford University Roundtable. She received the Monsignor Harding Award of Merit from Saint Peter's High School. The League of Women Voters also honored her with an award for her work in preserving the environment and opposing Oyster Creek Nuclear Generating Station.