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F. Thomas Lewand Partner, Bodman L.L.P., Detroit

Power lawyers

If more than 31 years of federal court battling over control and operation of the **Detroit Water and Sewerage Department** comes to a conclusion soon, Thomas Lewand will have played a significant role in bringing regional cooperation to the contentious topic.

His efforts on regional water are one of several examples of regional leadership by Lewand, 62, in recent years. He also has worked on health care institution negotiations and has negotiated public-private partnerships between corporations and municipalities.

Lewand was appointed special master by U.S. District Judge John Feikens on water and sewer issues for Southeast Michigan in 2002, working with a voluntary consortium of area municipalities and corporations toward regional solutions to long-range water and sewer problems.

Feikens has been virtual water-sewer czar since 1977, when the **Environmental Protection Agency** sued the city and its water system for pollution violations.

By 2000, the judge had decided that regional cooperation among public and private stakeholders in the vast system was needed and drafted top leaders to the consortium. He then appointed Lewand to work with the group for final solutions, which now seem within reach, Feikens said last week. This could mean that metro-area officials would be united in seeking federal funding for major infrastructure repairs from the Obama administration in 2009. Oversight of \$270 million in 10 bond-issue series for 13 downriver communities and Wayne County were among Lewand's efforts.

Lewand also served as Gov. Jennifer Granholm's facilitator in restructuring governance at **Detroit Medical Center**, providing \$50 million in capital infusion that allowed DMC to return to profitability. He has since represented DMC in negotiations with **Wayne State University School of Medicine** to reach agreement in November 2006 for approximately \$75 million in payments.

He represents corporations in transactions and also has negotiated public-private partnerships between corporations and municipalities. Among them is a deal among Detroit, Wayne County and the Detroit Lions for the construction of **Ford Field**.

Lewand serves on the executive committee of the **Michigan Economic Development Corp.**, as a director of the **Wayne County Economic Development Corp.**, and is immediate past chair of the **University of Detroit Mercy** board of trustees, among other roles.

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