

**Agendum  
Oakland University  
Board of Trustees Formal Session  
February 7, 2019**

**APPROVAL OF HONORARY DEGREE FOR BETH GOTTHELF  
A Recommendation**

- 1. Division and Department:** Academic Affairs, Office of the Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost.
- 2. Introduction:** In accordance with Article IX of the Bylaws of the Board of Trustees, honorary degrees may be awarded by the Board of Trustees in recognition of distinguished accomplishment and service within the scope of the arts and letters, sciences, professions, and public service as recognized and supported by the University. The awarding of honorary degrees reaffirms Oakland University's scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and ties the University to the community at large.

Beth Gotthelf was nominated for her altruism that has significantly benefitted Southeast Michigan. A graduate of Oakland University with a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration and Public Policy (1981) and a juris doctorate from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (1985), Ms. Gotthelf has had a distinguished legal career and has selflessly served the community. She currently serves as Director of Innovation and External Relations, co-chairs the Energy and Sustainability practice, Chairs the Aerospace and Defense Industry team and is a shareholder in Butzel Long's Bloomfield Hills office. She is credited with helping to diversify automotive suppliers in the aerospace and defense arena during the economic turndown and works with startup companies at the Macomb-Oakland University INCubator. She is also a leader in environmental law.

Ms. Gotthelf has served as general counsel to the Michigan Chapter of the National Association of Surface Finishers since 1990; Macomb-Oakland University INCubator Executive in Residence and Advisory Board member (2013-present); Commercial Real Estate Women (CREW) Detroit Advisory Board (2014-present) Better Business Bureau Board member (2012-present); Michigan Israel Business Bridge Board member (2007-present); and is former general counsel to the Wayne County Brownfield Authority, She has represented the Wayne County Department of Environment on a broad variety of issues, including the Detroit bankruptcy as it related to the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department; wastewater treatment plant expansion, upgrade and compliance; wet weather; landfills; remediation; and ordinance amendments. She has also represented Oakland County on matters of storm water and wastewater.

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Ms. Gotthelf has provided professional service to the Bar, including service as Vice Chair of the American Bar Association (ABA) Section of Natural Resources, Energy and Environmental Law, Water Quality and Wetlands; Vice Chair of the Sections Keystone Committee; Chair of the State Bar of Michigan's Environmental Law Section; and Chair of the Environmental Law Committee of the Oakland County Bar Association. She also was a member of the State Bar Representative Committee representing Oakland County. She is a fellow of the Michigan State Bar Foundation and a past Fellow of the Litigation Counsel of America.

In public service, Ms. Gotthelf has served on the Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce Leadership Committee for Transportation, and is past Chair of the Chamber's Task Force on Water and Sewer Issues. She is Chair of the City of Birmingham, Michigan's Brownfield Authority since 2005 and served as a director of the Detroit Area Commercial Board of Realtors. Nationally, Ms. Gotthelf has served on a federal advisory committee charged with recommending storm water rules, as an arbitrator for the National Arbitration Form, and a co-chair of the Building Owners and Managers Association Legislative Action Committee.

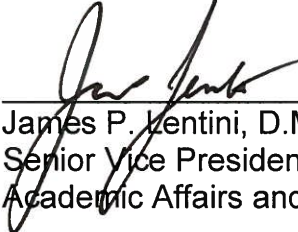
In addition to her professional and public service, Ms. Gotthelf is actively involved in philanthropy. She has co-chaired the Gleaners Food Bank Women's Power Breakfast fundraiser. She served as a board member and President of the Board of Trustees for the National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan Chapter for more than 10 years. She was a board member and board chair for the Oakland Plus Foundation. She served as a trustee of Jewish Vocational Services and currently serves the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Detroit as a member of the State Government Relations Oversight Committee.

Ms. Gotthelf is the recipient of numerous honors and awards. She was selected as one of 20 influential leaders by Michigan Lawyers Weekly – Women in Law in 2010. She was named a Top 100 Michigan Super Lawyer, Environmental in 2006-2016 and Top 100 Super Lawyer 2006-2008. She also has been a top 50 Women Super Lawyer in 2006 and 2008. DBusiness Top Lawyers in Metro Detroit, Environmental Law (2011-2017), Energy Law (2011-2012, 2016), Government Relations Law (2011-2012) Her awards include designation as an emerging leader by the Detroit Regional Chamber, Corp! Magazine as one of Michigan's 95 Most Powerful women, Corp! Magazine's Top 10 Business Attorneys for Southeast Michigan and Crain's Detroit Business 40 emerging leaders under age 40 in 1994.

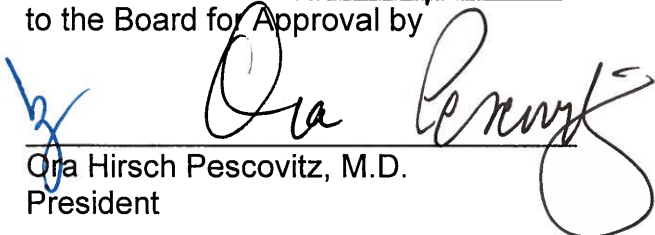
The Honorary Degree Committee recommends that Beth Gotthelf receive the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Humanities Honoris Causa in recognition of her many contributions to Southeast Michigan, the legal community and her voluntarism that has led to the betterment of our region.

3. **Previous Board Action:** The Board of Trustees periodically awards honorary degrees at its Formal Sessions.
4. **Budget Implications:** None.
5. **Educational Implications:** The awarding of honorary degrees is an established tradition in academe, by which the University reaffirms its scholarly, creative, and humanitarian values and its ties to the wider community.
6. **Personnel Implications:** None.
7. **University Reviews/Approvals:** The Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost has recommended approval of the recipient to receive an Honorary Degree.
8. **Recommendation** RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees awards the honorary degree of Doctor of Humanities *Honoris Causa* to Beth Gotthelf.
9. **Attachments:** None.

Submitted to the President  
on 2/5, 2019 by

  
James P. Lentini, D.M.A.  
Senior Vice President for  
Academic Affairs and Provost

Recommended on 2/5, 2019  
to the Board for Approval by

  
Ora Hirsch Pescovitz, M.D.  
President