

## **Ron S. Cope**

Ron chairs the Land Use Department and is a partner in the Government Group. He has extensive experience in local government, land use, and financing issues. Ron has been involved in the creation of TIF Districts, the establishment of special assessments, special service areas, the creation of business districts, redevelopment areas and condemnation of land for public use. He has represented many clients, both private and governmental, in land use matters including the creation of Planned Unit Developments, annexations, drafting new zoning ordinances, planning and funding redevelopment projects and town centers. He has provided counsel to municipalities and private developers on affordable housing issues.

Ron has been lead attorney in numerous cases in both trial and appellate courts. He was lead counsel in the principal case concerning the constitutionality of the School Reform Act of Illinois, a case ultimately decided by the Illinois Supreme Court. He has also served as lead counsel in precedent-setting cases upholding modern zoning concepts. He has litigated First Amendment issues involving free speech and freedom of religion and has defended local governmental bodies in complex contract disputes.

Ron has written and lectured extensively on land use law. He is the author of numerous articles on zoning and has lectured to attorneys and municipal officials on zoning and annexation issues. Ron is one of the featured speakers at the Illinois Municipal League Annual Conference, where he speaks on recent case law and statutes pertaining to zoning and annexation. Ron is also the general editor of Illinois Land Use Law published by the Illinois Institute of Continuing Legal Education.

Ron taught at the University of Chicago Graduate School of Business for 18 years.