

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION**The University of Michigan****A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning**

Richard K. Norton, assistant professor of urban planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
J.D.	1998	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
M.A.	1987	Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
M.E.M.	1987	Duke University, Durham, North Carolina
B.A.	1984	College of Wooster, Wooster, Ohio

Professional Record:

2001 – Present	Assistant Professor, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2003 – Present	Faculty Associate, School of Natural Resource and Environment, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Richard Norton teaches courses central to the curriculum in the Urban and Regional Planning Program, including Legal Aspects of the Planning Process, a doctoral theory course, and two courses in the master's concentration in land use and environmental planning. For four years he taught the program's principal undergraduate course, Introduction to Urban and Environmental Planning, every semester. In winter 2008, Professor Norton will teach another new course on land use and growth management, an increasingly important area of practice for urban planners across the nation.

In his courses for master's students Professor Norton emphasizes critical thinking so students may emerge as reflective practitioners who question the effectiveness and the direction of their professional work. He seeks innovation in the curriculum as well as in his own coursework and teaching methods. At his initiative, the program added a writing instructor to work with students on their professional communication skills. Professor Norton recognizes that good writing skills are vital for critical thinking. He is teaching this kind of thinking by integrating writing instruction into his law course. Professor Norton was one of the primary players in bringing about major reforms of the doctoral curriculum, and he teaches a new required course for Ph.D. students created as part of those changes.

Research: Richard Norton has become a leading scholar in land use planning for environmental sustainability, drawing on his broad background in environmental science and management, law, public policy, and urban planning. He is also well known in the state for his public scholarship, where he contributes legal and planning expertise to address state land use and environmental policy in ways that, in turn, enrich his insights about these fields.

Professor Norton has published seven peer-reviewed articles (five since his arrival at the University of Michigan) and has another forthcoming. Three were published in the two leading urban and regional planning journals: the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. Professor Norton has two other articles under review. In addition, he has written numerous reports that bring his research to bear on planning, including four articles published in *Michigan Planner* (the monthly magazine of the Michigan Association of Planning); a primer on the legal consistency doctrine and local master planning for the North Carolina Department of Transportation; and

three reports for the Genesee Institute (the research arm of the Genesee County Land Bank Authority, an institution that is becoming well known for innovations in land use policy and planning).

Professor Norton's research investigates the quality and use of comprehensive plans and master plans, especially in areas under strong development pressure. Because of his great concern over damage to the environment from extensive suburban and exurban development, Professor Norton has studied the quality of land use plans, local officials' use of plans, and the motives of local officials in using plans to manage development. In this body of work, Professor Norton has developed techniques for assessing the quality of plans that other scholars can apply in research on plans. Significantly, he has extended planning theory to the study of plan implementation, a process in which planners are not the key decision makers. He has connected this to research in implementation in public policy and political science and accomplishes this through his study of the institutional and legal structure of local planning and of the motivations of local officials.

Professor Norton's research addresses the scholarly – and the public – need to find ways to plan in “sustainable” ways, to balance social equity and economic development concerns with environmental protection, and to implement such plans. He brings interdisciplinary thinking to the research through his own mastery of the fields of urban planning, law, public policy, and ecological sciences. The success of this work is due to his ability to use a range of methods and research designs to answer questions about plans and to his detailed knowledge of land use and environmental law.

Professor Norton works as a “public scholar” in that he engages with practitioners on the issues he is studying, contributes his research insights to their work, and derives ideas and evidence from what he sees in the interaction of planning and development and its effect on the environment. He has written legislation that rationalizes and updates Michigan's zoning and planning laws and has written policy statements on key legal issues in land use planning in efforts to improve the laws in Michigan. He is using this work to lay the foundation for his future research on the interaction of planning and law as well as to understand the influences of planning and development management on legal processes. With a clear agenda for his research over the next years, he plans to assess how participation in the planning process and formal training affect participants' commitment to the protection of coastal resources. Professor Norton has established collaborative relationships with researchers across campus and with planning interests across the state that can provide a strong foundation for his research program.

Service: Professor Norton has made substantial service contributions to the Urban and Regional Planning Program and to the University of Michigan. His contributions to the University of Michigan include his involvement in the North Campus Planning Committee and the *ad hoc* Great Lakes Institute Committee. He has worked with students to win a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for a student project that will improve environmental sustainability on North Campus, a project that has contributed in substantive ways to the committee's work.

Professor Norton has made major contributions to land use planning in the state. This is public scholarship as well as public service. He has prepared policy statements and background papers for the Michigan Association of Planning on eminent domain, substantive due process, and regulatory takings—all extremely important issues in Michigan's land use law and policy. For these efforts, he has twice received awards for outstanding public service from the Michigan Association of Planning.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Planning for school facilities: School board decision-making and local coordination in Michigan. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 26(4):478-496 (2007).

Transforming the university campus into a sustainable community. *Planning for Higher Education* 34(4):22-38 (2007) (Lead writer with 5 collaborators).

Local commitment to state-mandated planning in coastal North Carolina. *Journal of Planning Education and Research* 25(2):149-171 (2005).

Striking the balance between environment and economy in coastal North Carolina. *Journal of Environmental Planning and Management* 48(2) 177-207 (2005).

More and better planning: State-mandated local planning in coastal North Carolina. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 71(1) 55-71 (2005).

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “[Norton’s papers] ... each make an important contribution to the field that I prefer to call ‘policy implementation theory.’ ... I have full confidence that Richard Norton will become one of the leading scholars of planning theory, policy analysis and, especially planning-and-law in the USA.”

Reviewer B: “[Norton has] ... established himself as an emerging leader in research and scholarship on institutional aspects of state and local environmental and smart growth planning.”

Reviewer C: “His record strives to be ... both an applied legal professional and a scholar/investigator in local plan making and administration, with a focus on planning effectiveness at the local level. ... It is absolutely necessary to have these traits and capabilities embedded in a nationally renowned planning program.”

Reviewer D: “My review of Dr. Norton’s teachings and scholarship suggests that he is setting new and important directions for planning research ...”

Reviewer E: “[Norton’s focus on] ... whether the use of plans affected outcomes and whether attitudes about plans affected their use ... get[s] more closely at the effectiveness of plans in use than do the previous formulations of others.”

Reviewer F: “[Norton’s] ... broad background helps him see the entire process and focus his research on how the various discrete pieces of the [planning and implementation] system interact.”

Reviewer G: “His work asks very important research questions about the instruments at the heart of environmental and land use planning in the United States: the comprehensive plan and the development management program...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Norton’s research, teaching, and service are outstanding and of great value to the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the college, the university, the state and the Great Lakes region where his professional combination of disciplines has the potential to address environmental issues and issues of social equity in achieving sustainability. These factors merit his promotion. The Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Executive Committee, and I are unanimous in recommending his promotion to associate professor of urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Douglas S. Kelbaugh FAIA, Dean
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2008