

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Richard K. Norton, associate professor of urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and associate professor of the environment, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and professor of the environment, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2001 | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, City and Regional Planning |
| J.D. | 1998 | University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill |
| M.A. | 1987 | Duke University, Public Policy Studies, Durham, North Carolina |
| M.E.M. | 1987 | Duke University, Environmental Management, Durham, North Carolina |
| B.A. | 1984 | College of Wooster, Biology, Wooster, Ohio |

Professional Record:

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| 2010 – Present | Program Chair, Urban Planning Program, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2009 – Present | Associate Professor, Program in the Environment, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan |
| 2008 – Present | Associate Professor of Urban Planning, with tenure, Urban and Regional Planning Program, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2003 – 2009 | Faculty Associate, Program in the Environment, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan |
| 2001 – 2008 | Assistant Professor of Urban Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Norton is a remarkable teacher making notable contributions to the Urban Planning Program and beyond. He teaches classes that are central to a number of programs including the Doctoral and Master of Urban Planning degrees, the Master of Urban Design degree, the Real Estate Development certificate program, and the undergraduate Program in the Environment. In all of these endeavors, Professor Norton's teaching quality shines. His teaching evaluations tend to the mid- to high fours for "excellent instructor" and "excellent course" in most courses.

Professor Norton's distinct advantage of having a merged background of planning and law enables him to teach in a fashion that is highly relevant to practice and allows him to conduct legal planning research that offers synergies with his teaching. He presents complex subjects in a comprehensible fashion. Students and alumni describe his courses as tough but highly relevant to their practices, and they appreciate the emphasis he places on writing and on the direct applicability of the course material to professional practice. Professor Norton also does extensive service in planning throughout the State of Michigan and his real-world experiences from these efforts are regularly brought into class. His skill and enthusiasm for teaching has been recognized by the graduating Master of Urban Planning students who have awarded him the Taubman College Faculty Excellence Award for the last three years in a row. In addition to his teaching, Professor Norton is also an outstanding and sought-after mentor. He has served on seven Ph.D. dissertation committees during this review period, chairing two of them.

Research: Professor Norton has charted a course for legal-planning research regarding the discrepancy between the conception of the natural world as embodied in the legal system and actual physical and biological processes as understood by scientists. These discrepancies lead to anomalies in property definition and planning, and Professor Norton's research (together with his co-authors) is the first to identify this problem, consider implications of the status quo, and the legal alternatives. He has shown that key aspects of the Public Trust Doctrine that delimits public from private land along shorelines are poorly suited to the physical properties of the Great Lakes and their shorelines. This disparity has led to poor outcomes for society and the environment and has impeded planning and environmental management. His work traces the implications of this mismatch and alternative legal definitions that would be a better match for the physical processes at work on the Great Lakes shores.

Professor Norton's work serves as a model of interdisciplinary research at the University of Michigan and beyond, effectively incorporating law, urban planning, and natural science into his scholarship. He has successfully attracted over \$1 million in research funding from external and internal sources, and his research has been published in peer-reviewed journal articles and law reviews. Publications include the *Journal of the American Planning Association* and the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, the two highest-visibility venues for research in urban planning in the United States.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Norton, Richard K. and Meadows, Guy A. 2014. Land and Water Governance on the Shores of the Laurentian Great Lakes. *Water International* 39(6):901-920.
- Norton, Richard K. 2014. Agenda 21 and Its Discontents: Is Sustainable Development a Global Imperative or Globalizing Conspiracy? *The Urban Lawyer* 46(2):325-360.
- Norton, Richard K., and Bieri, David S. 2014. Planning, Law, and Property Rights: A U.S.-European Cross-National Contemplation. *International Planning Studies* 19(3-4):379-397.
- Norton, Richard K., Meadows, Guy A. and Meadows, Lorelle A. 2013. The Deceptively Complicated 'Elevation Ordinary High Water Mark' and the Problem with Using It on a Great Lakes Shore. *Journal of Great Lakes Research* 39(2013):527-535.
- Norton, Richard K., Meadows, Lorelle A. and Meadows, Guy A. 2011. Drawing Lines in Law Books and on Sandy Beaches: Marking Ordinary High Water on Michigan's Great Lakes Shorelines under the Public Trust Doctrine. *Coastal Management* 39(2):133-157.

Service: Professor Norton excels in service to the college, university, and broader profession. His major contribution to the college is his service as the chair of the Urban Planning Program, a role he has successfully held since 2010. While providing leadership to the urban faculty, Professor Norton has also been successful in obtaining grants and external funding in support of that work, leading a strategic planning effort and accreditation review, working with the faculty to reform the curriculum, and raising the investment in and profile of the capstone studios. Beyond the college, Professor Norton has been associated with a number of institutions on campus and enjoys a very strong reputation for willing and generous service contributions. He has been particularly visible within the State of Michigan in public service. He works extensively with the Michigan Association of Planning, through which he has helped draft state planning and zoning legislation. He has written friend-of-the court briefs regarding planning issues that have influenced decision on planning-related issues by the Michigan Supreme Court.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Norton has helped to advance our understanding, especially, of coastal planning and management, in particular examining important questions at the interface of coastal planning and law (for instance, how shoreline edges are delimited, and the legal implications and pitfalls of reliance on concepts such as ordinary high water; relevance and application of the public trust doctrine in coastal planning)."

Reviewer B: "...Dr. Norton has established a reputation within the United States academic community as a quality scholar asking important questions and delivering excellent research aimed at an audience of planning professionals, the legal community and academics."

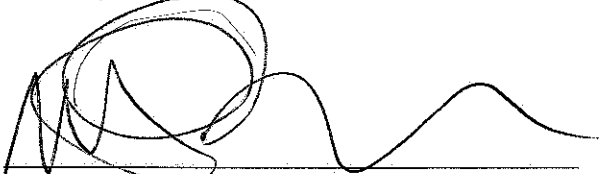
Reviewer C: "Professor Norton's ideas, which he has developed over a decade now, are extraordinarily creative and insightful. His academic publications have influenced courts' decisions and scholarly debates...he understands the virtues of interdisciplinary research while pursuing a well-defined and productive research agenda. All of his co-authored publications reflect the hallmark of his own position, yet also make best use of the expertise in other fields."

Reviewer D: "Richard is one of the top legal/planning scholars on a planning faculty anywhere in the world...His work is fundamentally interdisciplinary, combining knowledge, theory, and practice from law, planning, and, especially with his Public Trust Doctrine Michigan-based shoreline work, science."

Reviewer E: "...Professor Norton's scholarly work has made important contributions in three ways: first, by examining understudied but central aspects of planning practice; second, by scrutinizing the gaps between science and policy in the area of coastal management; and third, by exploring the competing conceptualizations that planners and lawyers can have with respect to land and its management."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Norton is a leader in all respects – in interdisciplinary and influential research, in teaching, in administrative leadership, and in service to the profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee as well as the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Executive Committee that we recommend Richard K. Norton for promotion to professor of urban planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, and professor of the environment, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Monica Ponce de Leon

Dean, and Eliel Saarinen Collegiate Professor of Architecture and Urban Planning
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning



Andrew D. Martin
Dean, and Professor of Political Science
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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