



CASE SPOTLIGHT

Advocating for Transparency in Public Works Projects

Gary Lee v. Little Calumet River Development Commission

CLC represents Gary resident Gary Lee in a legal challenge seeking transparency, accountability, and lawful decision-making by the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission.

What's at Stake

The Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission oversees flood control and other public works projects for communities in the Little Calumet River basin and collects \$7.5 million annually through special property assessments to carry out that work. CLC's lawsuit challenges the Commission's practice of making spending decisions in closed "executive" meetings before voting on those already-decided matters at public meetings.

CLC's Role

CLC brought suit on behalf of Gary resident Gary Lee, asserting that the Commission violated Indiana's Open Door Law and acted outside its public-purpose authority. After the Lake Superior Court granted the Commission's motion for judgment on the pleadings, CLC appealed and the Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's dismissal. CLC is petitioning for transfer to the Indiana Supreme Court.

Why This Matters

Public bodies must make decisions about public money and public land in public. This case seeks to promote transparency, accountability, and lawful decision-making by a government body responsible for flood control, public funds, and natural resource-related work in northwest Indiana.

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