



Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC  
130 North Court Avenue | Memphis, TN 38103  
901.524.5000 phone | 901-524-5024 fax  
www.bpjlaw.com

## Josh D. Whitehead

### Senior Attorney

Email: [jwhitehead@bpjlaw.com](mailto:jwhitehead@bpjlaw.com)  
Phone: 901.524.5127  
Fax: 901.524.5024



### PRACTICE AREAS

- Government Relations & Municipal Law
- Real Estate Law
- Zoning & Land Use Planning

Josh Whitehead is a leading expert in the areas of land use, planning and development, having served as the Zoning Administrator of Memphis and Shelby County Planning and Development for more than a decade. In 2010, as Assistant City Attorney for the City of Memphis, he developed and helped get approved the Unified Development Code, the first major overhaul of the zoning code in 30 years, shepherding it through both the Memphis City Council and the Shelby County Commission. He has also served as the Planning Director for the City of Germantown, where he is currently Assistant City Attorney, largely representing its Economic and Community Development Department.

Mr. Whitehead has represented developers of distribution and logistics centers, subdivisions and the region's first Topgolf in the land use entitlement process. He also represents homeowners' and neighborhood associations in the enforcement of private covenants and restrictions.

At Burch, Porter & Johnson, Mr. Whitehead assists his clients by navigating the zoning entitlement process, taking a pragmatic yet strategic approach and relying upon his 15-year experience with the executive, legislative and judicial branches of local government.

### EDUCATION

University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (J.D., 2005) University of Cincinnati, College of Design, Architecture, Art, and Planning. (Master of Community Planning, 2000) University of Memphis (B.A. 1998), cum laude.

### PROFESSIONAL HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

- Adjunct Professor, University of Memphis' Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law and Division of City and Regional Planning. Teach "Land Use Law," a course devoted to zoning, subdivision regulations and federal law governing the land use entitlement process.
- Rose Fellow, Urban Land Institute, 2013-2014
- Honoree, Memphis Business Journal Top 40 Under 40, 2008

### PUBLICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS OF NOTE

- CrÃme de Memph, a photo-based blog that provides a legal analysis of Memphis's more important zoning cases (2011-present)
- "The Use Variance: Zoning Savior or Annihilator?" Zoning Practice (American Planning Association), November 2020.
- "Regulatory Created Blight in a Legacy City," University of Memphis Law Review. 46 Mem.L.Rev. 857 (2016; co-authored by Steve Barlow and Tommy Pacello).



Burch, Porter & Johnson, PLLC  
130 North Court Avenue | Memphis, TN 38103  
901.524.5000 phone | 901-524-5024 fax  
www.bpjlaw.com

---

## **Josh D. Whitehead**

- "Save Normandie Golf Course!" (Film Documentary), debut in St. Louis, May 2005.

### **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

- Theatre Memphis Board of Directors, including serving on the Building Committee, 2015-present
- Carolina Condominium Owners' Association, Inc., Board of Directors (2006-2019)

### **ADMITTED TO PRACTICE**

Tennessee, 2009

### **BAR ASSOCIATIONS**

Tennessee Bar Association