

# LAND USE CASE LAW UPDATE

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Presented

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1

## I. PERMITS & APPROVALS (Ripeness and Exhaustion)



2

## **City of Crowley v. Ray**

- **1999: FEMA issues LOMR, revises FIRM**
  - Ray buys 4 acres
- **2001: Ray submits preliminary plat for all 4 acres; City approves**
  - Ray submits final plat for 1.3 ac.; City approves; Ray builds and sells
- **2006: Ray submits prelim. plat for 2.7 ac.; City approves**
- **2007: Ray submits final plat for 2.7 ac.**
  - City requests new flood study; Ray's engineer does it
  - City then requires 8' increase in min. floor elevation
  - Ray: 270,000 yds. of dirt, footings, etc. needed for to raise land  
... project "no longer economically feasible"
- **2009: Ray sues City and downstream engineers**

3

## **City of Crowley v. Ray**

- **Ray claims inverse condemnation**
- **City: Ray must exhaust admin. remedies by seeking**
  - variances, appeals, CLOMR's, etc.**
  - Ray must ripen by considering fewer units, changes, etc.**
    - like garages on ground floors**
- **Court: --City took "definitive position," and variances would be futile**
  - City identified no "remedial statutory scheme"**
    - ... and Court won't "rummage" through City's ordinances**
  - Therefore, case was ripe ... no admin. remedies to exhaust**

4

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5

## I. PERMITS & APPROVALS (Ripeness and Exhaustion)

### Orr v. City of Red Oak

- Orr buys existing building for A/C business  
--submits plans for parking lot expansion
- City PWD reviews plans . . . sends Orr 29 comments re:  
development ordinance, storm drainage manual, general engineering  
--says 5-ft-wide sidewalk, ADA ramps, screening wall needed
- Orr objects, then sues: claims requirements unauthorized, etc.
- City: Orr did not appeal to the ZBA, failed to exhaust admin. remedies
- Orr: Director acted *ultra vires* (but Orr did not sue him)
- Court: PWD comments were “order, requirement, decision, . . .”  
“made by an administrative official” . . . so appealable to ZBA  
HELD: No jurisdiction . . . suit dismissed.

6

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