

**Richard A. Walawender** is a senior partner at the international law firm of Miller Canfield, based in Detroit. Mr. Walawender's parents were born and lived in Poland until, as children in 1940, during WWII, the Soviet Army deported them to Siberia. After the war, they came to Detroit, where Mr. Walawender was born. In 1981, while studying at the University of Michigan, he enrolled in a foreign exchange program at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, where he also became active in supporting the Solidarity Trade Union. When Solidarity eventually came to power in 1989, they called on Mr. Walawender, now a lawyer, to come back to Poland to assist in rebuilding the country. He accepted their invitation and established 3 offices in Poland for his law firm and, to this day, works as an international lawyer. He received his B.A. and J.D. degrees from the University of Michigan.

In addition to serving on the Board of Regents of Orchard Lake Schools, Mr. Walawender is also active in several other Polish organizations promoting Poland and Polish culture, language and history. Since 2018, he has served as the Honorary Consul of Poland in Detroit. He is also an active member of several Catholic organizations.