

Before joining his family real estate business, Howard was a partner in the Rochester law firm of Boylan, Brown, Code, Vigdor, and Wilson, specializing in employee benefit plans and executive compensation. Beginning in 1984 he pioneered the use of Employee Stock Ownership Plans (ESOP's) in upstate New York, assisting employees to purchase companies from their owners.

As President of Konar Properties since 1999, Howard has guided the development of Erie Station Business Park, a 275-acre industrial and office park south of the Thruway in Rochester, New York. Owners and tenants in Erie Station Business Park include CooperVision, ADT Security Services, FedEx Ground, Vuzix, and Orolia.

In addition to the commercial side of its business, Konar Properties develops, owns, and manages multi-family apartment communities. These communities include Elmwood Manor, Erie Station Village, South and Hickory Place, and most recently VIDA in the Neighborhood of Play.

Howard has served as a trustee with several organizations, including Monroe Community College and the George Eastman House, and as a board chair of the Monroe Community College Foundation. He also has served on the boards of economic development, affordable housing, and Jewish community organizations.

Beginning in 1988, Howard led the fundraising efforts for an endowed chair in Holocaust Genocide Studies at Monroe Community College, the first of its kind at any Community College in the United States. In 2008 he was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Council of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC., and was later reappointed for a second term by President Barack Obama. Though no longer a Council member, he still serves as Chair of the Council's Education Committee.

Frustrated by a lack of dialogue and consensus-based policymaking by government leaders, Howard began work on *Common Ground, An Alternative to Partisan Politics* in 2013 and went on to found Common Ground Solutions (now Civic Genius) in 2017. A non-profit, non-partisan organization, Civic Genius offers educational tools to promote civic engagement, highlights areas where American voters agree on policy issues, and helps connect voters with their elected leaders to make the case that we can move forward together.