



SQUIRE
PUBLIC FINANCE

We have one of the largest, most diverse and highly regarded public finance practices in the US. We have been a nationally recognized bond counsel firm for more than 120 years and have been listed in *The Bond Buyer's* "Red Book" since its inception in the 1940s. Our public finance lawyers serve as bond, borrower, disclosure and underwriters' counsel on billions of dollars of the nation's largest, most complex and innovative municipal financings every year. In 2019, we served as counsel on nearly 600 transactions, totaling over \$40 billion. In the last five years, we served as counsel on nearly 3,000 transactions, totaling more than \$200 billion.

About Us

We have represented Ohio school districts for more than a century. Our K-12 lawyers have represented more than 200 school districts in Ohio, providing sound and practical advice as bond counsel in financing matters and in connection with labor and employment, construction, special education and other school law matters.

Why Choose Us

- Unparalleled experience in K-12 school law, providing you with quick access to experts in traditional bond financing and lease purchase financing, tax levies, labor and employment matters, construction and real estate issues, employee benefits, tax compliance, government investigations and other related issues
- Full understanding of the intricacies and nuances of representing public issuers, and working with you to analyze your goals and efficiently develop an often innovative and customized legal solution
- Well-established relationships with government agencies, arbitrators, mediators and unions to streamline discussions and solve problems

A Fully Integrated Practice

- **Public Finance** – We work closely with school districts at all stages of capital planning and project financing, including bond issues, note issues, projects funded by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, tax levy election proceedings and lease purchase/certificates of participation financings.
- **Public Finance Tax** – We have a team of nationally renowned public finance tax lawyers advising clients on federal and state tax compliance matters.
- **Labor and Employment** – We represent and advise clients in the full spectrum of Ohio school law matters, including collective bargaining, workers' compensation, employment matters, student discipline, tuition/residency issues, bullying and harassment, educating students with disabilities and handling transgender issues.
- **Federal Securities Law Experience** – We assist our clients in addressing issues and making filings relating to Continuing Disclosure under SEC Rule 15c2-12.
- **Construction and Real Estate** – We have extensive experience addressing the nuanced legal issues that arise in the construction of school facilities and the acquisition and sale of real estate.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response

In this rapidly evolving COVID-19 environment, we have the critical expertise to advise clients in all relevant areas, including labor and employment, school funding and operations, regulatory compliance and best practices.



Market Perception and Recognition

In 2019, our team served as bond counsel in more than 90 public school issues in the aggregate amount of \$1.5 billion and rendered bond counsel opinions on tax-exempt obligations in 44 states, including Ohio.

Top 10 National Public Finance Practice*

	Full Year 2019		
	Ranking	Issues	Amount
Bond Counsel	6	173	\$12 billion
Underwriters' Counsel	10	96	\$6.8 billion



* Bond, Disclosure and Underwriters' Counsel, Refinitiv, based on principal amount of issues. Bond, Disclosure and Underwriters' Counsel are publicly underwritten.

Extensive Experience

Our lawyers work across the whole spectrum of school issues. We have extensive experience in the following areas.

COVID-19 Pandemic

During this continuously changing COVID-19 pandemic, we work closely with our clients to advise them in the areas of labor and employment, school funding and operations, regulatory compliance and best practices, including addressing complex employee leave issues, questions regarding school district liability, and response planning.

Education Law

- Our general approach always considers how decisions will affect students, staff and your community.
- Our firm (literally) writes the book on Ohio school law and produces client alerts regarding legislative or policy proposals and developments at the state and federal levels.
- We work with lawmakers and our Public Policy team to draft and revise legislation to benefit our public school clients.
- Our team provides legal updates and on-site training to individual clients and school business associations, such as the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and others, to ensure you have the latest information.

Public Finance

- We work closely with clients to assist with the planning related to school facilities and other permanent improvement projects, including bond issues, note issues, projects funded by the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, tax levy election proceedings and lease purchase/certificates of participation financings.
- Our team has expertise in federal and state securities laws and we work with clients to provide ongoing assistance to ensure continued compliance with these laws.

- We are a leader in developing new and creative financing approaches and solutions, including programs leveraging municipal income tax and county sales tax revenues to finance school facilities construction. Our financing capabilities include structuring and analyzing financing transactions; performing due diligence; advising as to specific disclosure matters; assisting in preparing official statements and other disclosure documents; drafting authorizing resolutions and financing documents; and advising issuers as to “best practices” for primary and secondary market disclosure.

Labor Law

- We discuss with each client the role they prefer lawyers to play in bargaining, and then tailor our services accordingly.
- Our team often drafts bargaining proposals, suggests revisions and participates at the table during bargaining.
- We work with clients on a daily basis to maintain positive labor/management relationships to the extent possible, and to address concerns quickly when they arise.

School Employment Law

- We work with clients to ensure board policies are up to date and consistent with state and federal law.
- Our team frequently negotiates administrative contracts and advises regarding employment, discipline and dismissal of employees.
- Our clients benefit from easy access to lawyers in every area of human resources and benefits law to provide efficient and reliable advice to school district clients.

Student Services

- We provide daily advice to clients concerning their obligations in special education, the limits of what they can do and how to address parental concerns.

- Our lawyers frequently attend student disciplinary hearings and advise regarding appropriate punishment.
- We have expertise in issues involving student rights, including free speech, religious activities and gender expression.
- We work closely with clients on questions of student residency and proper enrollment to ensure they are in compliance with Ohio law and serving the residents of their communities.

Sunshine Laws

- We provide frequent advice to clients about how to address requests and issues related to Ohio’s Public Records Act.
- Our team has expertise in Ohio’s Open Meetings Act and works with clients to ensure compliance.
- We offer training to boards of education to ensure members are familiar with the Sunshine Laws and understand board obligations.

Construction and Real Estate

- We provide a full range of services related to the construction and renovation of school facilities, including the acquisition and sale of real estate, contract drafting, negotiation and interpretation, dispute resolution, job site labor issues and environmental matters.
- Our team is experienced in advising school districts on approaches to construction, such as engaging an architect or engineer, traditional competitive bidding, and hiring a construction manager “at-risk” or a design-builder.
- Our lawyers frequently present seminars on school construction topics at events sponsored by the Ohio School Boards Association, the Ohio Association of School Business Officials and the Buckeye Association of School Administrators.

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