Karen S. D. Grande

Partner

Providence Boston

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Karen's in-depth experience in public finance, including handling sophisticated financing structures, makes her a trusted advisor to government agencies, non-profit borrowers, underwriters, and bond issuers.

OVERVIEW

Karen counsels clients through unusual problems and special situations, providing comprehensive municipal law advice, including legislative drafting. Her experience extends to distressed community finances, particularly under Chapter 9 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code.

Karen's clients include cities, towns, and various state, regional, and municipal agencies financing public projects, such as schools, health care facilities, water supply, wastewater, recreational facilities, and economic development initiatives. She also serves as underwriter's counsel to investment banking firms and advises higher education and health care institutions on bond financings.

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- Served as bond counsel on a professional soccer stadium financing secured by economic activity taxes and increment taxes.
- Served as counsel to the state of Rhode Island in the precedent-setting Central Falls Chapter 9 Bankruptcy, navigating complex municipal insolvency issues and setting a significant legal precedent for distressed municipalities.
- Advises institutions of higher education and health care providers on bond financings for educational and health care facilities, particularly with compliance and securing necessary funding for critical infrastructure.
- Represents national investment banking firms as underwriters' counsel, facilitating bond issuances and overseeing regulatory compliance.
- Developed deep experience in water and wastewater financing.
- Provides advice and renders opinions in connection with the issuance of general obligation bonds and special revenue bonds by governmental issuers at all levels, offering creative financing solutions to meet public funding needs.

AWARDS

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- *Providence Business News,* Legal Services Industry Leader, Business Awards (2023)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Public Finance Law (2007-2027)
- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Lawyer of the Year, Public Finance (2015, 2021, 2024, 2026)
- AV Rating® (Pre-Eminent), Martindale-Hubbell

TOP AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bond Counsel
- Finance + Banking
- Public Finance

ALL AREAS OF FOCUS

- Bond Counsel
- Educational Institutions
- Energy
- Finance + Banking
- Public Finance

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Chair, Greenwood Credit Union
- Board member, Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra & Music School
- Chair, Board Resources Committee
- Member, Capital Center Commission Design Review Committee
- Board member, Grow Smart RI
- Fellow, American College of Bond Counsel (ACBC)
- Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Member, Rhode Island Government Finance Officers Association
- Member, Rhode Island Bar Association
- Elected Fellow, Rhode Island Bar Foundation

EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

EDUCATION

- Suffolk University Law School, J.D., *cum laude*, managing editor, *Suffolk University Law Review*
- Syracuse University, A.B.

CERTIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Fellow, American College of Bond Counsel (ACBC)
- Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Member, Rhode Island Government Finance Officers Association
- Member, Rhode Island Bar Association

- Elected Fellow, Rhode Island Bar Foundation

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Rhode Island
- Massachusetts

COURT ADMISSIONS

- U.S. District Court, District of Rhode Island

PUBLICATIONS

- Co-author, "Need for Enhanced Cybersecurity in Public Finance — Cyberthieves Steal Bond Proceeds," *Troutman Pepper Locke*, March 11, 2025.
- Author, "More Relief for Shuttered Venue Operators," *Locke Lord QuickStudy*, April 8, 2021.
- Author, "Help for Main Street: Federal Reserve Announces Expansion of Main Street Lending Program to Provide Greater Access to Credit for Nonprofits through Two New Credit Facilities," *Locke Lord QuickStudy*, July 27, 2020.

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