

McNees Public Finance and Government Services Practice Group



The McNees Public Finance & Government Services group is a team of accomplished lawyers from various practice areas with the experience to provide specialized legal services to government entities at all levels. State agencies, political subdivisions, school districts, municipalities, and authorities turn to McNees attorneys for comprehensive, responsive advice regarding the complex legal issues and challenges they face.

We are pleased to consider referrals in the following areas:

Public Finance: Our public finance representation includes roles as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, disclosure counsel, special tax counsel, trustee's counsel and counsel to issuers. We are there to protect the issuer to the best of our ability and to provide the issuer with direct and practical advice on what the issuer can or should do. Our local government bond counsel clients include many counties, cities, boroughs, townships, school districts and authorities across Pennsylvania.

Education: We represent school districts, intermediate units, charter schools, and cyber charter schools with special education compliance and litigation, including administrative due process hearings. We assist schools and educational providers with legal issues related to school funding, teacher certification, and student misconduct. We often assist public education institutions with policy review, drafting and implementation and with contract drafting and review. We have extensive experience with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), the Pennsylvania School Code, and the Pennsylvania Right to Know Law.

Government Services: In our government services representations, we partner with solicitors, officials, managers, auditors and financial advisors to identify practical, cost-effective solutions to difficult legal issues. We regularly advise boroughs, townships, cities, counties, authorities, school districts and other government agencies on complex legal issues, such as the potential sale or lease of municipal assets, environmental and related regulatory issues, internal complaint investigations that require independence, complicated debt restructurings, costly litigation, or any other significant, complex legal issue.

White Collar & Internal Investigations: McNees has a long history and experience litigating both federal and state criminal cases. Our attorneys know when it is in the best interest of our clients to negotiate resolution or settlements, but we will also vigorously defend our clients in court. Because clients often face legal challenges on multiple fronts – criminal, regulatory, and civil (sometimes simultaneously), having the ability to navigate licensing boards and other regulatory bodies in parallel investigations, and the civil complainant, is an added benefit.

Labor & Employment: Our Labor and Employment attorneys are keenly aware of the unique challenges facing public sector employers in Pennsylvania. Our proactive approach allows municipal leaders to stay in front of issues, rather than waiting to respond to costly litigation. We work with elected and appointed officials to develop policies, procedures, handbooks and general practices to avoid costly and time-consuming litigation.

Litigation: Our Litigation team represents governmental and quasi-governmental entities in all types of disputes. We routinely represent the interests of state agencies, counties, cities, townships, boroughs and other governmental entities as well as public authorities, universities and hospitals.

Real Estate: Our Real Estate team provides sophisticated legal advice to a broad range of clients in most areas of commercial real estate and land use. Our clients include residential and commercial real estate developers, investors and lenders; buyers and sellers of real estate; businesses and non-profit entities such as colleges and universities with significant real estate components; and commercial lessors and lessees.

Privacy & Data: Our cybersecurity team advises public sector entities on how to proactively limit the risks of data breaches and the ensuing liabilities. Our lawyers recognize that data exposure events are inevitable so entities must seek to be "compromise ready." We assist clients in reaching this goal by providing training and education, privacy and security assessments, strong data security policies, appropriate breach response plans, and attention to insurance and indemnification issues.

Energy & Environmental: Our Energy & Environmental team focuses on regulatory compliance, guiding public sector clients through complex regulatory frameworks, and representing public entities and authorities before federal regulatory agencies including the Environmental Protection Agency, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Susquehanna River Basin Commission, as well as state agencies, including the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. We are experienced in litigating before federal and state courts and other tribunals, including the Pennsylvania Environmental Hearing Board. We help municipalities defend Environmental Rights Amendment claims.

Keystone Municipal Solutions: With partners in all areas of the Commonwealth, and with varied experiences, Keystone Municipal Solutions helps with whatever may be needed, from assessing your current capabilities to filling a vacancy or even running your day-to-day operations on an interim basis. Keystone Municipal Solutions can also help manage special projects that may be beyond the capabilities (or bandwidth) of your staff and help train your current management team.