Kelly N. Hutchinson

Partner

Government and Public Finance

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Kelly Hutchinson advises state and local governments, transportation agencies, water and wastewater facilities, sports and convention facilities, educational institutions, and investment banks on public finance matters that drive critical infrastructure and community development. With over 20 years of experience as an issuer, municipal advisor, investment banker and legal counsel, she brings a comprehensive perspective to every transaction, anticipating challenges and guiding deals to successful closings.

Experience forged from having sat in every seat at the finance table

Kelly has broad experience in both tax-exempt and taxable financings, including public offerings, direct purchases and private placements. She advises clients on financings involving a variety of structures, including fixed and variable rate, letter of credit, bond insurance and certificates of participation. She also assists clients in the bond financing mechanics relating to tender offers and forward-delivery agreements. She has served as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, disclosure counsel or issuer's counsel for every major municipal borrower in Illinois and for significant issuers in New York and California.

Known as Katten's go-to person for tender offers, Kelly has developed a strong track record, frequently advising clients on the mechanics and strategy of tender offers. In 2024 alone, Kelly handled more than 10 tender offers, helping clients navigate the complexities of these transactions with efficiency and clarity.

Before joining Katten, Kelly was Director of Capital Markets for the State of Illinois, managing a $30 billion debt portfolio and leading one of the largest tax-exempt offerings in recent years — a $6 billion general obligation bond sale. Drawing on her experience as chief compliance officer and director at a registered municipal advisory firm, as well as her time as an investment banking analyst at JP Morgan, she brings a deep understanding of every deal participant's perspective, skillfully steering challenging, high-stakes negotiations toward successful outcomes.

Clients appreciate Kelly's calm leadership and her ability to build consensus among issuers, underwriters, bankers and other legal counsel.

Practices

- Capital Markets
- Financial Markets and Funds
- Government and Public Finance
- Infrastructure and P3
- Public Company Advisory

Industries

- Education
- Finance and Financial Markets
- Sports and Sports Facilities

Education

- JD, Tulane University Law School
- BA, Pomona College

Bar Admissions

- Illinois

Professional & Community Involvement

- Chicago Summer Business Institute, Board Member
- Chicago Children's Advocacy Center, Pro Bono Legal Counsel
- National Association of Bond Lawyers Women in Public Finance, Former National Board Member; Former Chicago Board Member

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She regularly advises on Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB) disclosure requirements, drafts official statements and bond purchase agreements, and structures financings for airports, highways, passenger rail, water and wastewater systems, schools, universities, hotels and convention and sports facilities.

Recognitions

Recognized or listed in the following:

- *Best Lawyers in America*
  - Public Finance Law, 2027
- Leadership Greater Chicago
  - Fellow, 2022
- Katten Muchin Rosenman LLP Pro Bono Service Award
  - 2025
- The Bond Buyer and Northeast Women in Public Finance
  - Trailblazing Women in Public Finance - Private Sector 2025

News

- Katten Attorneys Recognized in 2027 *Best Lawyers* Guide (August 20, 2026)
- Katten Advises State of Illinois on $486 Million Build Illinois Bond Issuance (June 25, 2026)
- Kelly Hutchinson Featured in Chicago Women in Public Finance's Women's History Month Spotlight (March 19, 2026)
- Katten Serves as Co-Bond Counsel to Chicago Transit Authority on $528 Million Bond Financing (February 19, 2026)
- Katten Serves as Bond Counsel in $87 Million WIFIA Loan for Joliet (January 20, 2026)
- Katten Serves as Underwriter's Counsel to Goldman Sachs in Connection with NYTDC's $1.95 Billion JFK Terminal 6 Bond Issuance (January 14, 2026)
- Katten Client State of Illinois Closes $600 Million Build Illinois Bond Series ABC of December 2025 Financing (December 11, 2025)

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- Kelly Hutchinson Receives Trailblazer Award as Katten's Government and Public Finance Team Contributes to Two Winners at *The Bond Buyer* Deal of the Year Awards (December 5, 2025)
- Katten Announces 2025 Pro Bono Service Award Recipients (October 22, 2025)
- Katten Announces New Partner Class of 2025 (August 26, 2025)
- Katten Team Serves as Bond Counsel in $286.9 Million Series 2023 Financing (December 13, 2024)
- Katten Team Represents Underwriters and Dealer Managers in $1.92 Billion Revenue Bond Transaction (December 13, 2024)
- Katten Government and Public Finance Team Contributes to Multiple Winners at The Bond Buyer Deal of the Year Awards (December 9, 2024)

Presentations and Events

- Government Finance Officers Association (April 8, 2021)
- Government Finance Officers Association (October 2, 2020)
- Women in Public Finance Annual Conference 2018 (2018)