

# Michael G. Melzer

Partner

Chicago Office

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## Practices

FOCUS: Government and Public Finance

Futures and Derivatives

Securities Litigation

Structured Products

## Education

JD, University of Michigan Law School

BS, Northern Illinois University

## Bar Admissions

Illinois

## Community Involvements

American College of Bond Counsel, Fellow

**"Michael is a crisp and powerful communicator who understands clients objectives. He is constantly coming up with interesting and creative solutions."**

*- Chambers USA 2024  
(Illinois, Public Finance)  
survey response*

Michael Melzer paves the way for his clients to secure the financing they need to build for the future. Michael focuses on public finance matters and understands how to navigate regulatory requirements and find mutually beneficial solutions for every member of the deal team. He excels at creating or improving complex and novel financial structures, and his clients rely on him over and over again for his quick turnarounds and nimble problem-solving.

## Smooth, efficient financing execution

Michael primarily works with state and local governments, leading investment banks, nonprofit entities and large institutional investors. He understands the importance of spotting potential issues well in advance, which allows him to efficiently handle complex transactions under tight time constraints.

In addition to his financing practice, Michael helps clients deal with regulatory enforcement actions, interest rate swaps and other financial derivative agreements, and nonprofit/for-profit mergers and acquisitions.

## Representative Experience

- Bond counsel for more than \$14 billion general obligation bonds; \$6 billion airport revenue bonds; \$54 billion convention, hotel and sports facility revenue bonds; \$2.6 billion electric system revenue bonds; \$1.8 billion health care and senior living revenue bonds; \$1.3 billion of Liberty Bonds; \$1.3 billion passenger rail bonds and notes; \$1.3 billion clean and drinking water state revolving fund bonds; \$675 million higher education revenue bonds and certificates of participation; \$600 million park district and harbor bonds; \$400 million wastewater revenue bonds; and \$3.5 billion of tax-exempt commercial paper.

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- Underwriter's or disclosure counsel for more than \$5.6 billion airport revenue bonds; \$5.3 billion general obligation bonds; \$4.4 billion electric system revenue bonds; \$3.3 billion health care and senior living revenue bonds; \$1.5 billion higher education revenue bonds; \$1.1 billion of PILOT Revenue Bonds; \$700 million wastewater revenue bonds; \$600 million municipal lease revenue bonds, including 63-20 bonds; and \$375 million multifamily housing bonds.
- Borrower's or special counsel for more than \$4.8 billion tax anticipation and general obligation bonds and notes; \$2.2 billion higher education revenue bonds; \$1.2 billion multifamily housing bonds; \$600 million health care and senior living revenue bonds; \$400 million pollution control bonds; and \$185 million fixed-base operator revenue bonds.
- Placement agent or purchaser's counsel for more than \$5.5 billion passenger rail revenue bonds; \$295 million state general obligation bonds; \$275 million wastewater revenue bonds; \$255 million of dock and wharf revenue bonds; \$160 million multifamily housing revenue bonds; and \$40 million surface water revenue bonds.
- Counsel involving energy-as-a-service and public-private partnerships for airport passenger terminal facilities; consolidated rental car facilities; water and sewer utility systems; higher education facilities; healthcare facilities, public infrastructure and parking systems and garages.
- Tax counsel for IRS ruling requests including private use of tax-advantaged financed hotel and sporting facilities; IRS audit defense; and the organization of, and exemption application for, nonprofit entities.
- Regulatory counsel to seven national underwriting firms and dozens of issuers and obligated persons in connection with the SEC's MCDC initiative; counsel to underwriting firms and municipal advisors in SEC and MSRB enforcement actions including pay-to-play and Rule 15c2-12 enforcement actions.
- Counsel in workouts involving Florida, Illinois, Indiana and Washington conduit revenue bonds; Indiana, New York and Tennessee low-income and tax credit housing facilities; special service area bonds; and road district debt certificates.

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- Counsel to municipal corporations navigating disclosure, contractual implications and legislative remedies for non-appropriation events.
- Counsel for state Medicaid and other vendor payment programs.

## Recognitions

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*Recognized or listed in the following:*

- *Chambers USA*
  - Public Finance, 2023–2024
- *Super Lawyers Rising Stars*
  - Illinois, 2020–2024

## News

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- Katten Receives High Marks in *Chambers USA Guide 2024* (June 6, 2024)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2024 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 25, 2024)
- Katten Boosts Rankings in *Chambers USA Guide 2023* (June 1, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2023 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 24, 2023)
- Katten Attorneys Named to 2022 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 28, 2022)
- Katten Attorneys Chosen for 2021 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2021)
- Katten Attorneys Selected to 2020 Illinois Super Lawyers, Rising Stars Lists (January 29, 2020)
- Katten Names New Partners (August 1, 2017)

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- Public Finance Transaction Named Midwest Deal of the Year by *The Bond Buyer* (November 2009)

## Publications

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- Municipal Advisors and "Bank Purchase" Bonds: What's All the Commotion About? (April 23, 2015)
- The SEC's MCDC Initiative: Where To Go From Here (October 14, 2014)

## Presentations and Events

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- Council of Development Finance Agencies—Illinois Roundtable (May 1, 2017) | *Panelist* | *Latest Developments in the Illinois Bond Market*
- Zeigler Analytical Team Meeting (February 24, 2016) | *Speaker* | *Fundamentals of Tax-Exempt Bonds and the ABC's of Arbitrage and Rebate*