

Jennifer Block

Senior Attorney

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Des Moines – 515.699.3274



Jennifer advises municipal securities issuers, underwriters, and other market participants on SEC and MSRB disclosure obligations—turning regulatory complexity into workable compliance programs and financings that close on time.

Jennifer concentrates her practice on municipal disclosure, counseling clients through the full arc of a financing—from drafting initial offering documents and conducting due diligence to developing post-issuance continuing disclosure procedures. Her clients include municipal issuers, conduit borrowers, underwriters, and investment banking firms navigating the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) and the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board (MSRB).

What distinguishes Jennifer's approach is her background in securities regulation. Before focusing exclusively on public finance, she spent nearly 14 years supporting mutual funds, exchange-traded funds (ETFs), and interval funds on matters ranging from Securities Act of 1933 and Investment Company Act of 1940 registration and financial reporting to governance, auditor engagement, and SEC regulatory reviews. That foundation shapes how she reads disclosure risks: she spots issues early, frames them in terms clients can act on, and structures solutions that keep transactions moving.

On the transactional side, Jennifer serves as disclosure counsel, municipal advisor counsel, and underwriter's counsel across a wide range of governmental financings—general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, hospital financings, public school and college dormitory projects, and utility financings. She also prepares bond purchase agreements and provides compliance training to help issuers and underwriters build the internal procedures needed to meet ongoing MSRB and SEC obligations.

Select Experience

- Served as disclosure counsel for conduit financings and governmental general obligation and revenue financings, including public school, hospital, and utility

Education

- Drake University Law School (Juris Doctor, 2000)
 - High Honors
- Wartburg College (Bachelor of Arts, Business Administration (Management), 1995)
 - *summa cum laude*

Bar Admissions

- Iowa

transactions, advising on primary offering documents, due diligence, and MSRB/SEC compliance.

- Counseled municipal issuers and market participants on continuing disclosure obligations, developing post-issuance disclosure procedures and providing compliance training on SEC and MSRB requirements.
- Served as underwriter's counsel on utility, hospital, and public school financings, negotiating bond purchase agreements and advising on primary disclosure obligations under SEC Rule 15c2-12 and MSRB rules.
- Supported mutual funds, ETFs, and interval funds for nearly 14 years on SEC registration of securities, financial reporting, auditor engagement letters, governance, board meeting preparation, and compliance programs—including materiality assessments, board reports, policy development, and risk assessments—under the Securities Act of 1933 and the Investment Company Act of 1940.*

Professional Affiliations

- Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Member, Women in Public Finance
- Member, Iowa Bar Association
- Member, Polk County Bar Association
- Member, National Association of Women Lawyers

Clerkships

- Iowa Supreme Court, Chief Justice Lavorato, 2003–2006
- Iowa Court of Appeals, Judge Huitink, 2002–2003
- Iowa Fifth Judicial District, multiple judges, 2000–2002

Accolades

- Consistently providing pro bono legal assistance to those in need through Dorsey's Pro Bono program
- Dorsey & Whitney – Scales of Justice Award, 2022

Select Presentations

- Speaker, *Webinar: Afghans in Iowa: Providing Legal Services with Cultural Competency*, Polk County Bar Association (November 2022)

Insights

September 20, 2022

SEC Charges Underwriters with Violations of Rule 15c2-12

April 19, 2022

SEC Charges School District, the District's Former Chief Financial Officer and the District's Auditor with Violations of Federal Securities Laws in a 2018 Bond

Offering

October 27, 2021

SEC Charges School District and the District's Former Chief Financial Officer with Violations of Securities Laws in a 2018 Bond Offering

May 14, 2020

SEC Statement Encourages Municipal Securities Issuers to Provide Expanded COVID-19 Disclosures