

Severie Orngard

Associate

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Severie Orngard structures municipal and private activity financings—from tax increment financing to special assessments—so Iowa communities and developers get their deals closed.

Severie brings a practitioner's ground-level perspective to public finance, having first worked in Dorsey & Whitney's Des Moines office as a paralegal before joining the team as an associate. That foundation shapes how she approaches every transaction: with an eye toward what it actually takes to move a deal from term sheet to closing table.

Severie advises on a wide array of municipal financings and private activity bond transactions, with particular depth in economic development tools. Her work regularly involves tax increment financing (TIF), tax abatement, and self-supporting municipal improvement districts (SSMIDs)—mechanisms that sit at the intersection of public policy and project finance and require careful coordination between developers and local governments.

Beyond bond closings, Severie counsels clients on annexation, special assessments, and bid letting. That range reflects the practical reality of public finance practice in Iowa: clients often need guidance on the regulatory and procedural framework surrounding a project, not just the financing itself.

Professional Affiliations

- Member, Iowa Bar Association
- Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Member, Iowa Municipal Attorneys Association
- Member, Women in Public Finance

Legal Writings

Education

- Drake University Law School (J.D.; Business Law Certificate, 2024)
 - *with honors*
 - Projects Editor, Drake Journal of Agricultural Law
- Iowa State University (B.A., Political Science; Minor: Classical Studies, 2011)

Bar Admissions

- Iowa

- Student Note: “Virtual Fencing: Pushing the Boundaries of Legal Livestock Fencing in the United States,” 29 Drake J. Agric. L. 137 (2024).