



Benjamin J. Brooks

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Areas of Practice

Banking and Financial Institutions | Bond and Public Finance Practice | Non-Profit Organizations and Trade Associations | Governmental Associations | Site Selection | Global Supply Chains and Onshoring | Manufacturing

Mr. Brooks has practiced in Smith Gambrell Russell's Public Finance group since 1998. He specializes in traditional government finance, representing Georgia cities, counties, and school districts in issuing general obligation bonds, contract revenue bonds, sales tax-backed bonds, tax anticipation notes, and annual appropriation obligations. In addition, Mr. Brooks has particular experience in local government financial incentives and tax reduction bonds (bonds for title), 501(c)(3) bonds, manufacturing facility bonds, and certificates of participation.

He regularly serves as bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, lender's counsel, and borrower's counsel in public finance transactions. Mr. Brooks also represents corporate trustees in initial bond issuance as well as post-default matters. Mr. Brooks represents manufacturing and other companies that are relocating or expanding, with an emphasis on foreign direct investment. Mr. Brooks negotiates incentive packages with state and local governments and helps companies successfully implement and receive promised incentives.

Mr. Brooks is a member of the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the Local Government Section of the State Bar of Georgia. He is a graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute for the Metro Atlanta region.

Mr. Brooks received his B.A. degree from Brigham Young University in 1995 and his J.D. degree, with honors, from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1998. While attending law school, he served as an Articles Editor of the North Carolina Journal of International Law and Commercial Regulation.

Continued

Representative Experience

- Representation of **Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County** as bond counsel for the development of the Classic Center Arena project with bonds totaling \$50 million.
- Representation of **Kia Georgia, Inc.** and its **suppliers at Kia's West Point, Georgia plant** as bond and company counsel on six separate tax incentive bond issues totaling more than \$2 billion.
- Representation of a **foreign manufacturing company** making a U.S. investment of \$600 million with a state and local incentive package worth over \$50 million.
- Representation of **Heard County, Georgia School District**, as bond counsel for multiple tax-exempt bond issues totaling more than \$40 million.

Admissions

Georgia

Memberships

National Association of Bond Lawyers

Recognitions

Best Lawyers in America®, Banking and Finance Law; Public Finance Law (2021-2026)