

EQUINE

Hodgson Russ provides legal counsel to owners, breeders, trainers, and businesses in the equine industry. Our knowledge of the equine industry, combined with our experience in all major areas of U.S. law, make Hodgson Russ particularly adept at protecting the diverse needs of the equine professional, owner, and business.

Our practice spans the many aspects of equine law, including the following:

EQUINE LITIGATION

Our multidisciplinary team handles every aspect of litigation that may arise in the equine industry. We have experience litigating and settling horseback riding accident and negligence claims, agency issues, sales and ownership disputes, and contractual claims.

EQUINE CONTRACTS & RELEASES

Our attorneys are available to assist clients with negotiating and drafting equine contracts, including boarding agreements, breeding contracts, purchase and sale agreements, commission agreements, and liability releases and waivers.

EQUINE LIENS

Our team has assisted equine boarding and training stables with issues related to nonpaying boarders, including negotiating payment of outstanding fees, obtaining and enforcing

equine liens (also known as horse liens, agister's liens, and stablekeeper's liens), and coordinating the transfer of registry papers.

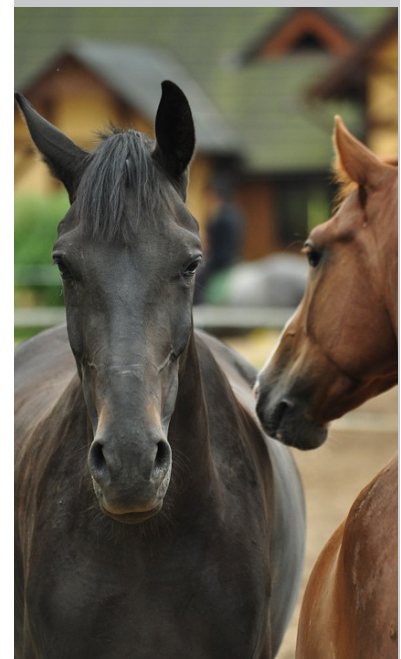
RACING

Our attorneys regularly represent owners of racetracks in regulatory matters before state gaming commissions and in negotiations with off-track betting facilities.

TAX PLANNING/ DISPUTE RESOLUTION

Our attorneys are well versed in New York State and New York City tax issues, as well as multistate, international, and cross-border tax matters. From planning and compliance to litigation and damage control, our team provides legal solutions specifically tailored to meet our clients' complex needs. Our attorneys assist clients on the tax implications of their equine operations, including minimizing corporate and/or personal income tax consequences, navigating the often complex sales and use tax rules specific to the equine industry, and handling audits and other tax-related disputes.

Our Equine Practice Leader, Melissa Subject, is a longtime owner, breeder and experienced rider of national champion horses.



CONTACT

Melissa Subjectk

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PROFESSIONALS

ATTORNEYS

Joshua Lawrence

Kinsey O'Brien

Melissa Subjectk

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Melissa Subjectk is a longtime owner, breeder and rider of national champion horses. Melissa's horses have garnered championships at the U.S. and Canadian Arabian and Half Arabian Championship Horse Shows, the prestigious Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show, and many regional and class A horse shows throughout the country. She frequently meets with her clients in our Saratoga Springs and New York City offices.

TRUSTS AND ESTATES

Our team advises clients on all aspects of estate and trust planning, administration, settlement, and taxation to help provide for your horses' uninterrupted care if they outlive you. Our attorneys are highly skilled in dealing with all estate planning tools, including complex equine trusts.

CORPORATE ADVICE

Our team regularly advises start-up and existing companies at every stage of their evolution and on a wide spectrum of their legal issues. Our team advises clients on the formation of the appropriate structure for their equine operations, as well as issues related to capitalization, contractual agreements, labor and employment, and regulatory issues.

IMMIGRATION

Hodgson Russ attorneys are skilled in handling a broad range of immigration issues for businesses and individuals. Our team is available to assist clients with obtaining appropriate work authorization and immigration status for professionals and individuals engaged in a variety of equine-related businesses and professions. Our clients include equestrian athletes, trainers, grooms, veterinarians, equine dentists, farriers, saddle fitters, lecturers in equine health, breeding stables, professional equine associations, and owners and employees of many types of businesses in the equine field.

Our attorneys have substantial experience filing a broad range of petitions and applications for non-immigrant and immigrant visas (green cards) with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. Temporary visa classifications for our equine-related business clients include the O-1, O-2, P-1, E-1, E-2, TN, B-1, and H-1B categories. In addition, our immigration services include counseling U.S. employers on all aspects of employment eligibility and verification and related unlawful discrimination practice.

ZONING AND AGRICULTURAL LAND USE

Hodgson Russ attorneys can help stable owners and veterinarians obtain appropriate land use permits and approvals needed to develop property for their horses or treatment of horses, ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal laws. We have experience helping owners and those tending horses with securing and maintaining suitable property. Our team handles all aspects of site development, including zoning variances, special and other land-use permits, tax abatements, and economic development initiatives. Our attorneys also provide strategic counsel related to purchase and financing of undeveloped land, transfer of development rights, and planning for expansion.

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