



## CHRISTOPHER C. CANADA

Partner; Public Finance Practice Group Leader; Public Authority Practice Co-Leader

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Chris acts as the practice group leader of the firm's Public Finance Practice and has focused on public finance law since graduating from law school in 2001. He frequently acts as counsel to industrial development agencies (IDAs), local development corporations (LDCs) and other public authorities throughout New York State. Chris counsels IDAs on commercial, manufacturing and renewal energy projects in connection with the granting of financial assistance from IDAs, including exemptions from sales and use taxes, mortgage recording tax and real property taxes through PILOT Agreements. He routinely advises IDAs and LDCs on compliance with the requirements of the Public Authorities Accountability Act of 2005 (PAAA) and the Public Authorities Reform Act of 2009 (PARA), as well as the General Municipal Law and the Public Authorities Law in general, including assisting with inquiries from the New York State Authorities Budget Office (ABO) and the New York State Comptroller.

Chris has extensive experience acting as bond counsel to LDC, IDAs and other public authorities across New York State on tax-exempt and taxable revenue bond financings for the benefit of colleges and universities, charter schools, retirement communities, hospitals and other 501(c)(3) organizations in public offerings, limited offerings and direct purchases. He also has significant experience acting as bond counsel in tax-exempt lease programs (TELP) and multifamily housing bond transactions under Section 142 of the Code. His practice includes a strong focus on the federal tax laws and regulations pertaining to tax-exempt bonds, with particular emphasis on arbitrage, private use questions and post-issuance compliance. Chris also has assisted qualified 501(c)(3) bond issuers on audits by the IRS relating to tax-exempt bond issuances.

Chris also represents colleges, universities, hospitals, health systems and other 501(c)(3) organizations in connection with tax-exempt bond issuances, and the implementation of obligated group borrowings through master trust indentures.

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### Practices & Industries

Bond Counsel  
College & University  
Land Use & Economic Development  
Municipal  
Municipal Finance & Special Districts  
Public Authority

### Admissions

New York  
Maryland

### Education

Hobart College, B.A., cum laude  
Case Western Reserve University  
School of Law, J.D.

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Chris frequently advises issuers and 501(c)(3) organizations on matters relating to continuing disclosure requirements under SEC Rule 15c2-12 and the federal securities laws. He has acted as underwriter's counsel throughout his career in tax-exempt and taxable bond offerings for projects in numerous states.

Prior to joining Hodgson Russ, Chris was a member (partner) with Bond, Schoeneck & King, PLLC in Syracuse, New York and a senior associate with McKennon, Shelton & Henn LLP in Baltimore, Maryland.

## Honors

- Listed, *Best Lawyers in America* (Economic Development Law, Public Finance Law) 2023 - 2024
- Former Senior Editor, *Case Western Reserve University School of Law Health Matrix: Journal of Law-Medicine*

## Experience

As reported in the [New York Times](#), Micron announced the siting of a chip factory complex in the Town of Clay, located north of Syracuse, NY. Micron has retained a team of Hodgson attorneys (Chris Canada (Albany), Glen Doherty (Albany), Chris Doyle (Buffalo), Terry Gilbride (Buffalo), John Godwin (Buffalo), Joe Scott (Albany) and Jeff Swiatek (Buffalo)) to handle IDA, construction, real estate, tax and labor matters. The firm has already handled a significant amount of work of the matter relating to the structuring and completion of a Project Labor Agreement with the local trade unions through the efforts of Glen Doherty, with support by John Godwin and Jeff Swiatek.

The project is expected to be undertaken in multiple phases over a 10 year period, and involve the investment of over \$100 billion. Job estimates include 9,000 Micron employees and over 40,000 jobs for suppliers, contractors and vendors.

The firm secured the work through a contact/referral at the Greenberg Traurig firm, who is acting as government relations consultant to Micron. In addition, the firm was able to demonstrate the experience and skill set necessary to handle such an engagement by describing the work currently being handled by the same team members for a \$300M offshore wind manufacturing project to be sited in the Port of Albany.

## In the News

IDA Approves Pilot Program With Mohawk Solar  
*The Recorder*, January 4, 2019

## Press Releases

71 Hodgson Russ Attorneys Ranked in 2023 Edition of *Best Lawyers in America*  
*Hodgson Russ Press Release*, August 19, 2022

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Christopher Canada and Charles Malcomb Appointed As Co-Chairs of Hodgson Russ Public Authority Practice  
*Hodgson Russ Press Release*, May 18, 2021

## **Publications**

Updates to State Building Codes will Require Local Revisions: Given the Added Workload on Code Enforcement, Municipalities May Wish to Evaluate the Sufficiency of Local Permit Fees

*Hodgson Russ Municipal Alert*, November 28, 2022

Mandating Low Carbon Concrete to Achieve Embodied Carbon Reductions in the Building Sector

*Hodgson Russ Municipal Alert*, May 16, 2022

Budget Bill Amends Assessment Challenges to Renewable Energy Projects Under Real Property Tax Law § 575-b

*Hodgson Russ Renewable Energy & Municipal Alert*, May 3, 2022

New York State Legislature Amends Open Meetings Law to Allow for Videoconferencing

*Hodgson Russ Municipal and Education Alert*, April 19, 2022

Open Meetings Law Amendment Requires Making Materials Available At Least 24 Hours before Meetings

*Hodgson Russ Municipal Alert*, October 29, 2021

For Zoning Determinations, the Third Department Confirms that “Filed” Means Filed

*Hodgson Russ Land Use & Economic Development Alert*, October 22, 2021

New State Legislation Provides Financial Flexibility to Local Governments and School Districts

*Hodgson Russ Bond Counsel Alert*, August 31, 2020

Governor Cuomo Extends Executive Order Permitting Remote Public Meetings Another 30 Days

*Hodgson Russ Municipal and Education Alert*, August 7, 2020

Update on CARES Act Emergency Financial Aid Grants to Higher Education Students

*Hodgson Russ College & University Alert*, July 31, 2020

Municipalities Hit with Deluge of FOIL Requests After Repeal of Section 50-a of the Civil Rights Law

*Hodgson Russ Municipal Alert*, June 22, 2020

## **Presentations & Events**

IDA Bond Financing Roundtable

CCIDA, MHAB Life Skills Campus, 14 Dormitory Dr., Plattsburgh, NY, September 18, 2023

Northeast Summer Seminar 2023

New York Government Finance Officers' Association, Lake George, New York, August 11, 2023

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The 2022 Fall IDA Academy  
November 10, 2022

2021 Fall IDA Academy  
NYS Economic Development Council (NYSEDC), November 16, 2021

NYS Economic Development Council (NYSEDC) - Virtual Economic Development Conference  
January 21, 2021

NYSEDC IDA Academy  
Melville Marriott, Long Island, New York, November 14, 2019

NYSEDC Academy  
New York State Economic Development Council, Batavia, New York, September 10, 2019

Preparing for IRS and SEC Scrutiny: Procedures and Training  
Hodgson Russ, 140 Pearl St, Buffalo, NY 14202, April 24, 2018

### **Professional Affiliations**

- National Association of Bond Lawyers
- New York State Government Finance Officers Association
- New York State Association of School Business Officials
- New York State Economic Development Council
- Albany County Bar Association
- Saratoga County Bar Association
- Albany Symphony Board Member