

## ARENAS & SPORTS FACILITIES

Hodgson Russ possesses a wealth of experience in projects related to all types of professional, collegiate, and public arenas and sports facilities. Our attorneys have been heavily involved in all legal aspects related to the construction, renovation, financing, and ongoing operation of these entities. Our extensive experience includes professional football and baseball stadiums, numerous ski resorts; ice rinks; publicly owned sports-facility improvement projects; and various nonprofit projects, including a number of sports facilities for colleges. Many of these projects were financed in whole or part with industrial development agency financing, and many were public-private partnerships.

### Experience

Mr. Gilbride served as co-counsel to Empire State Development Corporation, the economic development arm of New York State, in conjunction with the ten-year renewal by the Buffalo Bills of the lease for Ralph Wilson Stadium and the related \$250 million stadium renovation project. This representation complemented his prior representation of Erie County, the owner of Ralph Wilson Stadium, in 1999 in conjunction with the structuring, negotiation, and documentation of the multi-tiered leasing arrangement for the stadium. This representation included securing special state enabling legislation for consummation of the lease transaction and publicly funded renovation of the stadium complex, as well as engagement with the NFL general counsel's office on all league-related issues pertaining to the lease renewal.

A Hodgson Russ team represented the Buffalo Sabres and its affiliate, HARBORCENTER, in conjunction with the development of HARBORCENTER, an approximately \$200 million, 600,000-square-foot sports, retail, entertainment, parking, and hospitality complex. This first-of-its-kind mixed-used facility includes two ice rinks; a 19-story, full-service Marriott hotel; a sports-themed nightclub and restaurant; retail space; and an 800-car parking facility, all of which are connected to the existing Key Bank Center via skywalk. Hodgson Russ has worked with the Sabres on all aspects of this project from its inception, including environmental review, contract negotiations, permitting, construction, economic development incentives, financing, and tax planning.

Hodgson Russ served as counsel to one of the finalists in an NFL-administered auction for a new franchise. This representation included extensive analysis and structuring relative to ownership and stadium operations.

### Professionals

#### Attorneys

Christofer Fattey

Rafael Pignataro

A. Joseph Scott III

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Hodgson Russ served as lead counsel to the City of Buffalo in conjunction with the construction of a minor league baseball stadium. This representation included nearly every legal aspect associated with the construction of the 20,900 seat stadium, ultimately culminating in the lease agreement between the City of Buffalo and the resident team, the Buffalo Bisons. In the course of this representation, Hodgson Russ played a key role in structuring the multi-lender, \$37 million financing for this project.

Hodgson Russ represented a nonprofit corporation in conjunction with the development and construction of an \$11 million twin pad ice arena in Lockport, New York. This representation includes the negotiation of all construction, financing, naming rights, and management agreements for the facility

Lead negotiator for private developer of sports and entertainment complex, successfully resolved through negotiation a high seven-figure dispute involving construction delays, inclement weather, and interference claims.

