GILMORE BELL EMERGING LEGAL ISSUES BONDS AND PUBLIC FINANCE Presented by: Michael G. Rogers

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Emerging Legal Issues: Bonds and Public Finance

- Tax Reform
- Direct Purchase Bonds
- Public-Private Partnerships
- American Infrastructure Bonds
- Municipal Advisor Rules
- Post-Issuance Compliance

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• The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA) became law in December 2017 • Prohibition of Advance Refunding Bonds

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No More Advance Refundings

- Advance Refunding Bonds issued to refinance outstanding bond issue more than 90 days prior to the redemption or retirement of the refunded bond issue.
 - Utilized to take advantage of low interest rates before outstanding bonds were callable
 - Viewed by congress as doubling the benefit to governmental issuers

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Tax Reform:

Alternatives to Advance Refundings

- Shorter Optional Call Provisions
- Forward Delivery Bond Purchase Agreement



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Direct Purchase Bonds

- School District General Obligation Bonds usually sold to the public through an underwriter
- Direct Purchase Alternatives:
 - District could sell bonds directly to a bank
 - Enter into a Lease-Purchase Agreement with a bank

Direct Purchases Rare for School Districts Simple Credit = Simple Marketing and Good Rates for Publicly Offered Bonds Benefits of Direct Purchases: No offering document No continuing disclosure

Public Private Partnerships
What is a P3 Transaction?
• One Possibility:
 Developer borrows and builds a building
- District Leases building
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American Infrastructure Bonds
A proposal to establish American Infrastructure Bonds
 Taxable bonds with a direct payment credit subsidy of 28% of interest expense
PAYMENT REQUIRED
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American Infrastructure Bonds, Cont'd sented by: E & BELL, P.C. · Similar to Build America Bonds and Qualified School Construction Bonds • BUT: - NOT subject to sequestration - No limit on type of governmental capital construction project - No state allocations or applications to a centralized bureaucracy Municipal Advisor Rules • Promulgated by SEC under Dodd-Frank Act • Effective date of July 1, 2014 • Governs activities of "municipal advisors" (NOT School Districts) • Impacts the activities of market participants and imposes certain restrictions Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd: Impact on Governmental Entities **SEC Inquiries and Actions** •Time, effort, expense in responding •Interviews, document requests •Political / PR Risk - MA Rules are des prohibit conflicts of interest GILMÖREBELL

Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd
A "municipal advisor" is a person that:
i) provides
(a) advice;(b) to or on behalf of a municipal entity;
(c) with respect to:
(1) municipal financial products; or
(2) the issuance of municipal securities, including advice with respect to the structure, timing, terms, and other
similar matters;
OR
(ii) undertakes a solicitation of a municipal entity.
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Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd
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exemptions permit communications that would otherwise
constitute "advice" without causing someone to be deemed a
municipal advisor":
Underwriter Exemption
•RFP/RFQ Exemption
•RFP/RFQ Exemption •Independent Municipal Advisor Exemption •Public Officials and Employees Exemption
•Registered Investment Adviser Exemption •Bank Exemption
Professional Exemptions (Accountants, Attorneys, Engineers, etc.)
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Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd:
Activities within the scope of an underwriting
Advice regarding structure, timing, and terms
 Preparation of ratings and investor presentations
Advice regarding order periods and marketing
Assistance in preparation of POS and OS,
negotiation of documents, certificates and opinions
Structuring of refunding escrow cash flow
requirements necessary for a defeasance
Advice to make catch-up continuing disclosure
• Advice to make catch-up continuing disclosure filings in connection with a new bond issue and POS
inings in connection with a new bond issue and POS

Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd:

Activities outside the scope of an underwriting

Advice on:

- · investment strategies
- the method of sale of municipal securities, assistance with competitive sales, and advice regarding selection of finance professionals
- approval or authorization of issuance of municipal securities or a bond election
- · financial controls
- · terms of RFPs or RFQs
- ongoing continuing disclosure (materiality judgments)

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Municipal Advisor Rules, Cont'd: Attorney Exemption

Attorneys are exempt from the definition of municipal advisor to the extent the attorney is offering legal advice or providing services of a traditional legal nature.

An attorney representing himself or herself as a financial advisor or financial expert will not be exempt under the attorney exemption.



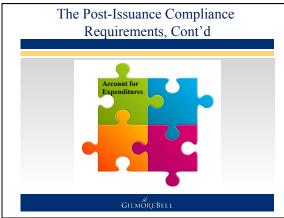


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Accounting For Expenditures	
 <u>Identify</u> the Project <u>Identify</u> <u>Total Project Costs</u>	
 Identify Bond Proceeds and <u>Earnings</u> Complete a <u>Final Written Allocation</u> 	
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Accounting For Expenditures, Cont'd ented by: E & BELL, P.C. **Spending Bond Proceeds** Accounting for Project Expenditures You're no better than Me. We're fungible. Accounting For Expenditures, Cont'd How do we ensure Bond proceeds only go to eligible Project costs? "Final Written Allocation" Accounting For Expenditures, Cont'd Final Written Allocation •Needed for New Money Financings •Prepared After the Project is Complete •Uses Issuer's Accounting Records •Includes Expenditures for Bond Proceeds & Other Money •Tells the IRS How ALL the Money was Used (Bond Proceeds and Other Equity)



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Account for Investments

- Identify money that must be tracked
- Account for proceeds and earnings
- Comply with rebate and yield restriction rules
- Follow special investment pricing rules



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Account for Investments, Cont'd

General Investment Limits (Arbitrage)

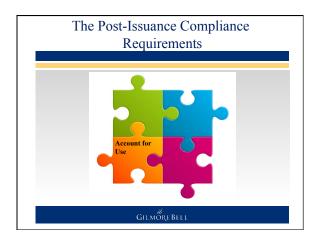
- Bond Yield vs. Investment Yield
- Example
 - Bond Yield = 3%
 - Bond proceeds invested at 4%
 - 1% of excess earnings must be paid or rebated to the Federal Government

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Account for Investments, Cont'd Is Arbitrage Compliance required for every bond issue? YES! • Exception to rebate may be available • All Issuers must account for investments • Yield reduction calculation

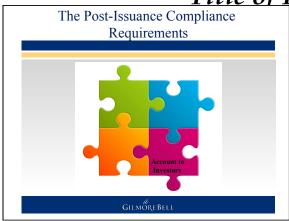
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Account for Use
 Use an <u>Annual Compliance Checklist</u> Identify the <u>rules</u> and <u>restrictions</u> that apply to bond <u>financed Projects</u> Identify <u>your role</u> in tracking use of financed Projects
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Account for Use, Cont'd ented by: E & BELL, P.C. Permitted "Good Use" of financed Projects includes use by: •The City •The State •Other local government entity •General public •*501(c)(3) entity - 501(c)(3) Bonds only* Account for Use, Cont'd Nonqualified Use ("Bad Use") may result from any arrangement with: •Taxable entity •Person engaged in trade or business •501(c)(3) entity •Federal Government What is a "bad use" arrangement... GILMÖREBELL Account for Use, Cont'd Arrangements that may result in "Bad Use" include: •Sale •Leases •Management/Operating Agreements •Output Contracts •Research Contracts •Granting other special legal rights to Financed Projects (e.g. naming •*Unrelated Trade or Business Use - 501(c)(3)*

<u>Title of Presentation</u>



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Bonds are securities! Federal regulation of securities offerings Two primary statutes from 1933 and 1934 – the securities laws SEC's concerns Investor protection Market efficiency

• Applies to underwriters (not issuers)
 Mandates a baseline of disclosure for municipal securities – official statements annual reports event notices
• There are exemptions for certain offerings and financings

Continuing Disclosure Undertakings

- Underwriter must obtain an undertaking from an "obligated person"
- Contractual obligation of obligated person
- Components
 - Annual Report (Audit + Operating Data)
 - Event Notices (14 Events)
- In new official statements, disclosure about noncompliance during 5-year historical period

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Continuing Disclosure Complia	nce
Prepare annual report(s)	9
• Obstacles	
 Information not yet available 	
- Audit delays	
 Information provided by third 	71
party sources (County Assessor)	
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Continuing Disclosure Compliance, Cont'd File the annual report; document compliance by keeping records Light Continuing Disclosure Continuin

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Bond calls (if ma	terial) and tender offers
<u>Defeasances</u>	
Rating changes	IMPORTANT NOTICE
*In a timely mannal Annual Report	ner, notice of a failure to fi

Event Notices	
	The Other Eleven
1.	Payment Delinquencies
2.	Non-payment related defaults (if material)
3.	Unscheduled draws on reserves reflecting financial difficulties
4.	Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
5.	Substitution or failure of credit or liquidity providers
6.	Material events affecting tax status (including adverse tax opinions and IRS determinations of taxability)
7.	Modifications of bondholder rights (if material)
8.	Release, substitution or sale of security (if material)
9.	Bankruptcy or similar events
10.	Merger, consolidation, acquisition or sale of substantially all of the assets of an obligated person (if material)
11.	Appointment of successor or additional trustee (if material)
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Questions?	ented by:
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