

John P. Danos

Partner

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Des Moines – 515.699.3275



John serves public and private clients on municipal financings, complex local government matters, and economic development transactions. He believes that innovation, excellence, and teamwork are critical to achieving the best outcomes.

Since 2002 John has helped cities, counties, special districts, and private entities meet their goals through tax exempt and taxable municipal bond issues, private debt placements, lease purchase financings, and other debt arrangements. John guides clients through state and federal tax law and federal securities law compliance issues.

In addition, John has extensive experience in structuring economic development transactions involving tax increment financing, tax abatement, and other local government support.

John is a frequent presenter at local government conventions, legal seminars, and public finance meetings on topics related to tax increment financing, economic development, municipal debt, and complex local government issues.

John currently serves as co-leader of Dorsey's Public Finance Practice Group.

Select Experience

John serves as bond counsel and economic development counsel for several hundred cities and counties across Iowa.

In the arena of municipal debt, he has assisted issuer clients with refinancings, infrastructure development, facilities financings and cash flow needs through:

- Rated and unrated offerings to the municipal bond market through public sales and negotiated underwritings
- Tax exempt and taxable debt issues

Education

- Drake University Law School (J.D., 2002)
 - With highest honors
- Oklahoma State University (M.S., Counseling & Student Personnel, 1994)
- Grinnell College (B.A., Religious Studies, 1991)

Bar Admissions

- Iowa

- Negotiated private bank placements
- Government lending program placements through the Iowa SRF and USDA Rural Development programs

Professional Affiliations

- Professional Developers of Iowa
- Iowa State Bar Association
- National Association of Bond Lawyers
- Iowa Municipal Attorneys Association

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Member of the Operating Board of Directors for Orchard Place in Des Moines, Iowa

Accolades

- *Best Lawyers in America*®, Economic Development Law, Public Finance Law, 2019-2026
- *Best Lawyers*® Lawyer of the Year, Economic Development Law, Des Moines, 2024

Additional Information

- John is a published contributor to the Iowa League of Cities' CITYSCAPE Magazine and the Iowa State Association of Counties' IOWA COUNTY Magazine on topics of economic development, tax increment financing and municipal borrowing.

Select Presentations

- John is a regular presenter at the Iowa League of Cities annual conference, the Iowa Municipal Clerk's Institute/Academy, the Iowa Municipal Finance Officers Association Convention and other continuing legal education seminars on topics related to on topics of economic development, tax increment financing, municipal debt issues and other complex municipal law topics.

Insights

December 11, 2025

Reputation is Everything: Iowa Supreme Court Clarifies Use of Closed Session

Job Interviews

May 10, 2023

Dorsey Partner John Danos Discussed Urban Revitalization Plans and Tax

Abatement Policies at the Lansing City Council

April 2023

Borrowing Tools for Nuisance Abatement, Cityscape

June 21, 2022

Critical Changes To Iowa's Public Bidding Law

April 19, 2022

SEC Charges School District, the District's Former Chief Financial Officer and the District's Auditor with Violations of Federal Securities Laws in a 2018 Bond Offering

October 27, 2021

SEC Charges School District and the District's Former Chief Financial Officer with Violations of Securities Laws in a 2018 Bond Offering

October 19, 2021

John Danos Discusses Tax Abatement Concept

January 27, 2021

Louisa County plans for local option sales tax renewal referendum

October 23, 2020

Dorsey Partner John Danos Discusses Tax Programs for West Liberty

April 13, 2020

CARES ACT Municipal Liquidity Facility

March 30, 2020

CARES Act Summary for Public Finance

March 25, 2020

Guidance Regarding Electronic Meetings in Iowa

September 16, 2019

Dorsey Partner John Danos Remarks on Bond Funding for Kum & Go Store

July 26, 2018

Dorsey Partner John Danos Advises Hancock County on Future County Building

November 5, 2017

Dorsey Partner John Danos Discusses Oskaloosa City Rec Center Agreement