

PARTNER

Jane V. Hawkes

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OVERVIEW

Jane Hawkes is a well-regarded, Massachusetts-based business lawyer with more than 20 years of experience in the areas of tax exempt bond financing, complicated mergers and acquisitions, commercial real estate development, corporate governance, finance (both public and private equity, debt and derivatives) and taxation. Jane serves as counsel to a number of companies, providing advice on licensing, regulatory, securities compliance and strategic partnering issues.

Clients often seek Jane's practically-minded counsel and representation in the tax-exempt financing area. She has served as bond counsel on hundreds of tax-exempt financing transactions in Massachusetts, benefiting private companies as well as major charitable and public institutions, universities and colleges. She also has counseled clients in large, complicated public/private development projects, including several hotels, office buildings and affordable housing projects.

She was formerly interim in-house general counsel for a biotech client. "My duties included directing that client through SEC enforcement and compliance matters," Jane explained, "as well as dealing with technology transfer, foreign subsidiary, human resource, creditor rights and licensing issues." She has also represented clients before the SEC regarding debt and equity issues, merger transactions and going-private transactions.

Jane served as managing partner of Bowditch & Dewey from 1997 to 2000. In addition, she was an adjunct professor at Babson College in the MBA program, teaching a course in business and tax issues in mergers and acquisitions. During an 18-month sabbatical in 1986 and 1987, Jane worked as a partner managing the development and financing of several projects, including a large development in Rhode Island, part of a joint venture with a major institutional investor.

Beside work

"I play tennis and enjoy the theatre." Jane – who loves a challenge – gardens at her house on the Vineyard. "There are too many deer. Fences don't help, so I grow things they won't eat. "

EXPERIENCE

Funding the large-scale development of community health centers

Although Jane's experience is broad, she gets particular satisfaction from projects which give back to the community in important ways. For example, Jane has been involved with other Bowditch lawyers in representing a number of non-profit community health centers located in urban areas of Massachusetts in the health centers' efforts to replace or upgrade their

existing and, in many instances, inadequate facilities. Working with the clients, the team from Bowditch put together models of multiple layers of funding, comprised of federal grants, bond funding, and various tax credits, including New Market Tax Credits. “We developed viable funding options,” Jane said, “through hard work, creativity and team effort. We figured out how to make the funding work with complicated real estate, regulatory and tax issues.

“Projects where the economics are difficult – such as community health centers and affordable housing – typically use several funding sources,” Jane added. “We spend a lot of time to make sure we get it right, as these are complicated. We care a great deal about the clients and the mission they serve, which makes all the midnight oil worthwhile in the end.”

Working hard to learn about a client’s needs

Whether it is in biotech, affordable housing or aerospace supply agreements, Jane is always spending the extra time needed to learn the client’s business. “I remember when I first started representing a biotech company I would stroll through Harvard Square and pick up used textbooks on such esoteric subjects as biochemistry. I soon decided that there was a reason I went to law school and not medical school and put some bounds on my curiosity. I still, however, am curious, and that curiosity fuels the ability to make sure the legal documents align with the clients business goals.”

AFFILIATIONS

PROFESSIONAL/COMMUNITY

- *Chambers USA, America’s Leading Lawyers for Business*, recognized as one of the top Banking and Finance: Public Finance lawyers in Massachusetts
- Corporator, Worcester Art Museum, Community Healthlink, Inc.
- Family Services of Central Massachusetts and Bay State Savings Bank

PREVIOUS

- Former Chair, Worcester Business Development Corporation
- Former Director, Worcester Children’s Friend Society
- Former Trustee, Boylston Public Library

ARTICLES & TALKS

Jane has presented programs on financing techniques for public and private development before the annual meeting of the Council on Urban Economic Development in Philadelphia and participated in an invitational roundtable sponsored by Fannie Mae in Washington, D.C., on urban housing problems.

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Massachusetts

EDUCATION

- J.D., Suffolk University Law School
- B.A., Regis College