

## Jim McNeill

Principal

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Jim's practice is focused on municipal law and finance with emphasis on serving as bond counsel to Washington school districts and other Washington municipalities. In addition, he has substantial experience in the practice of defending municipalities against challenges to the exercise of municipal authority.

Jim has more than 30 years of experience as a bond attorney for Washington school districts. Since 2007, Jim has acted as bond attorney to Washington school districts on 387 issues with more than \$6.55 billion in bonds. He has served as a bond attorney on a variety of financings for Washington school districts, including voted and non-voted bonds (both tax-exempt and taxable), short-term notes, lines of credit, certificates of participation, leases and conditional sales contracts. Additionally, Jim has served as special counsel in the preparation of levy election resolutions. He also has drafted legislation enacted by the Washington Legislature affecting school districts and frequently speaks at WASA, WASBO and WSSDA conferences on school finance related subjects.

He currently serves as bond attorney for more than 160 school districts, including, among many others, Aberdeen, Arlington, Battle Ground, Bethel, Camas, Cashmere, Cheney, Clover Park, Davenport, Deer Park, Dieringer, Eastmont, East Valley (Spokane), East Valley (Yakima), Ellensburg, Ephrata, Franklin Pierce, Freeman, Grand Coulee Dam, Granite Falls, Highline,

### Services

Public Finance & Municipal Government  
School Districts

### Admissions

Washington, 1986  
U.S. District Court, Eastern District of Washington, 1988  
U.S. District Court, Western District of Washington, 1987  
U.S. Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit, 1988  
U.S. Supreme Court, 1992

Hockinson, Hoquiam, Kalama, Kelso, Kennewick, La Center, Lake Stevens, Medical Lake, Methow Valley, Moses Lake, Nine Mile Falls, North Franklin, Omak, Othello, Pasco, Port Angeles, Port Townsend, Prosser, Quillayute Valley, Quincy, Renton, Richland, Royal, Selah, Sequim, Shelton, Shoreline, Snohomish, Snoqualmie Valley, Spokane, Sumner, Tonasket, Tukwila, Wapato, Washougal, Wenatchee, White Pass, Yelm and Zillah.

### Education

- J.D., Gonzaga University School of Law, 1985
- B.A., Washington State University, 1982

### Honors & Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America*® Education Law, 2013-2020
- Spokane Top Lawyers, *Spokane/Coeur d'Alene Living* magazine, 2008-2009
- Granite Falls School District, Partnership of the Year Award, 2008

### Professional Activities

- Christian Legal Society, Member, 1990-present
- National Association of Bond Lawyers, Member, 1991-present
- Spokane County Bar Association, Member
  - Former Member: Judicial Evaluation Committee, Professionalism Committee, CLE Committee, Pro Bono Panel
- Washington Council of School Attorneys, Member, 1995-present
- Washington State Bar Association
  - Judicial Recommendation Committee, Co-chair, 1991-1995

## News

Foster Garvey Public Finance Team Closes \$1.2 Billion in Bonds in One Week

*Foster Garvey Newsroom*, 1.7.20

50 Foster Garvey Attorneys Named 2020 *Best Lawyers in America*

*Foster Garvey Newsroom*, 8.15.19

## Speaking Engagements

"Educational Programs and Operation Levies and Capital Levies" and "Keeping up with *Another Year of Property Tax Changes: How Levy Lid Changes Impact Your Taxpayers and School District*," 2019 WSSDA Annual Conference

Speaking Engagements

Bellevue, WA, 11.22.19

"What School District General Counsel Need to Know About Bonds and Levies," Council of School Attorneys 2019 Fall Conference

Speaking Engagement

SeaTac, WA, 11.4.19

"Preparation and Planning: Factors to Consider When Pursuing and EPO Levy," Piper Jaffray 2019 School Election Conference

Speaking Engagement

Spokane, WA, 10.3.19

"School District Resolution Writing"; "Election Season Do's and Don'ts"; "Building a School: Financing and Property Acquisitions"; and "Alternative Finding Sources: Capital Levies" 75th Annual WASBO Conference

Speaking Engagements

Spokane, WA, 5.8.19

"Keeping up with Property Taxes: How McCleary has Impacted Your Taxpayers and School District," Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA) Annual Conference

Speaking Engagement

11.18

2018 Tri-Cities Municipal Government & Public Finance  
Seminar  
Event  
Benton City, WA, 7.19.18

74th Annual WASBO Conference  
Speaking Engagements  
Tacoma, WA, 5.10.18

Washington Association of School Business Officials (WASBO)  
Annual Conference  
Event  
5.18

“EHB 2242 & School District Levy Ballot Propositions,”  
Northeast Washington ESD 101 Superintendent Meeting  
Speaking Engagement  
November 2017

WASBO Annual Conference  
Speaking Engagement  
May 2017

“Post Bond Issuance Compliance For School Districts: Basic  
Training on Tax and Securities Responsibilities,” WASBO 2017  
Facilities Committee Webinar  
Speaking Engagement  
2017

“Post Bond Issuance Compliance – Maintaining Bond  
Covenants,” WASBO Annual Conference  
Speaking Engagement  
May 2016

“What Do You Need to Know...About What You Can and  
Cannot Do During a Campaign,” 2015 School Election  
Conference  
Speaking Engagement  
September 2015

“Risk - The Game of Reduction of Professional Exposure, Loss  
Prevention and Bond Counsel Liability,” National Association of  
Bond Lawyers, 39th Bond Attorney's Workshop  
Speaking Engagement  
September 2015

“Writing Ballot Titles,” Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys (WAPA) Summer Program  
Speaking Engagement  
June 2014

### **Legal Alerts**

A New School District Levy Lid: ESSB 5313  
5.6.19

### **Publications**

Ballot Title Changes for School District Bonds and Levies  
2015

EHB 2242 & School District Levy Propositions  
October 2017

Facilities Funding  
*CSG Works Newsletter*, Spring 2015

School Law News  
2004-2014

Washington School Bond Manual  
*Washington State School Directors Association (WSSDA)*,  
1.1.09

School Facilities Manual, Chapter 4 – Financing  
*Superintendent of Public Instruction*, 2000

Washington Municipal Financing Deskbook  
*Lawyers Cooperative Publishing*, 1993

### **Experience**

#### **Representative Work: Bond Counsel Transactions**

- Represented numerous school districts in Unlimited Tax General Obligation Bonds in 2018 and 2019, including:
  - Bethel School District No. 403 for \$124,330,000 (2019)
  - Cashmere School District No. 222 for \$3,720,000 (2018)
  - Colfax School District No. 300 for \$17,100,000 (2018)
  - Ellensburg School District No. 401 for \$43,610,000 (2019)

- Ephrata School District No. 165 for \$24,340,000 (2019)
- Highline School District No. 401 for \$59,375,000 (2018)
- Hoquiam School District No. 28 for \$6,355,000 (2018)
- Kalama School District No. 402 for \$56,840,000 (2018)
- Kelso School District No. 458 for \$60,125,000 (2018) and for \$28,835,000 (2019)
- Kennewick School District No. 17 for \$75,975,000 (2019)
- La Center School District No. 101 for \$42,340,000 (2018)
- Moses Lake School District No. 161 for \$44,585,000 (2018)
- Pasco School District No. 1 for \$88,650,000 (2018)
- Royal School District No. 160 for \$14,440,000 (2019)
- Selah School District No. 119 for \$40,955,000 (2018)
- Shoreline School District No. 412 for \$208,390,000 (2018)
- Snoqualmie Valley School District No. 410 for \$22,370,000 (2019)
- South Bend School District No. 118 for \$4,760,000 (2018)
- Spokane School District No. 81 for \$127,910,000 (2019)
- Tukwila School District No. 406 for \$31,190,000 (2018)
- White Salmon Valley School District for \$6,465,000 (2019)
- Yelm Community Schools for \$88,400,000 (2019)
- Represented numerous school districts in Limited General Obligation Bonds in 2018 and 2019, including:
  - Aberdeen School District No. 5 for \$2,500,000 (2019)
  - Arlington School District No. 16 for \$1,212,250 (2018)
  - Bridgeport School District No. 75 for \$515,000 (2019)
  - Camas School District No. 117 for \$5,270,000 (2019)
  - Colville School District No. 115 for \$872,500 (2019)
  - East Valley School District No. 361 for \$5,500,000 (2018)
  - Eastmont School District No. 206 for \$2,286,280 (2018) and for \$13,345,000 (2019)
  - Freeman School District No. 358 for \$1,000,000 (2018)

- Grand Coulee Dam School District No. 301J for \$1,000,000 (2019)
- Kettle Falls School District No. 212 for \$625,000 (2019)
- Kittitas School District No. 403 for \$200,000 (2018)
- Loon Lake School District No. 183 for \$767,500 (2019)
- Methow Valley School District No. 350 for \$450,000 (2019)
- Nine Mile Falls School District No. 325 for \$3,445,000 (2018)
- Orondo School District No. 13 for \$75,000 (2019)
- Paterson School District No. 50 for \$142,595 (2018)
- Prosser Consolidated School District No. 116 for \$266,600 (2018), \$387,000 (2018) and \$231,000 (2019)
- Sequim School District No. 323 for \$2,295,000 (2018)
- St. John School District No. 322 for \$480,000 (2019)
- Tonasket School District No. 404 for \$1,780,000 (2019)
- Represented numerous school districts in Unlimited Tax General Obligation Refunding Bonds in 2017, 2018 and 2019, including:
  - Arlington School District No. 16 for \$6,640,000 (2017)
  - Ellensburg School District No. 401 for \$12,985,000 (2017)
  - Highline School District No. 401 for \$26,185,000 (2019)
  - Kelso School District No. 458 for \$6,075,000 (2017)
  - Methow Valley School District No. 350 for \$1,351,705 (2019)
  - Renton School District No. 403 for \$44,005,000 (2017)
- Represented numerous school districts in Unlimited Tax General Obligation Improvement and Refunding Bonds in 2017 and 2018, including:
  - Shelton School District No. 309 for \$65,885,000 (2017)
  - Shoreline School District No. 412 for \$60,675,000 (2017)
  - Snoqualmie Valley School District No. 410 for \$112,860,000 (2017)
  - Sumner School District No. 320 for \$92,775,000 (2017)

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### Representative Work: Significant Cases & Matters

- *Fell v. STA*, 128 Wn.2d 618 (1996) (defended STA in a class action lawsuit challenging STA's determination of paratransit services)
- *Marquis v. City of Spokane*, 130 Wn.2d 97 (1996) (defended City of Spokane in sex discrimination lawsuit brought by former golf professional)
- *Smith v. Spokane County*, 89 Wn. App. 340 (1998) (defended Spokane County against a claim that aquifer protection fees were an unconstitutional tax)
- *Mt. Spokane Skiing Corporation v. Mt. Spokane Public Development Authority*, 86 Wn. App. 165 (1997) (defended Mt. Spokane PDA in a lawsuit by private operator against Spokane County formation of PDA to acquire state concession)
- *Inland Foundry v. SCAPCA*, 82 Wn.App. 67 (1996) (defended SCAPCA in a challenge to SCAPCA's classification of air contaminant sources)
- *SRDF v. STA*, \_\_\_ Wn.App. \_\_\_ (1992) (unpublished) (defended STA's acquisition of real property for a downtown transit center)
- *IBS v. IBM* (U.S. Dist. Ct. for E.D. Wash.) (1995) (unpublished) (defended IBM in a claim for damages arising from a personal services contract)
- *Spokane Transit Authority* (advice to STA regarding litigation, general counsel matters and labor; drafted Rules of Conduct for The Plaza pertaining to free speech)
- *The Baseball Club of Seattle* (advice to Seattle Mariners regarding stadium legislation, financing and litigation)