



STEPHEN S. SPARKS

Senior Counsel
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BIOGRAPHY

Steve Sparks practices in all aspects of public finance including general obligation bonds, lease purchase financings, tax anticipation notes, tax increment financing, conduit revenue and private activity bonds, including service as bond counsel and representation of underwriters, issuers, trustees, developers, lenders in credit-enhanced transactions and purchasers of municipal bonds in direct placements. Mr. Sparks also has experience in real estate development, real estate finance and corporate finance, representing both lenders and developers. He has been lead counsel for more than \$15 billion in bond issues and finance transactions his 42-year career, involving several hundred bond issues and with a variety of issuers in many states and political subdivisions. He currently represents, on a national basis, the largest apartment REIT in its bond-financed projects. Mr. Sparks regularly served as outside counsel to the City of Kansas City, Missouri, including \$2 billion in downtown redevelopment projects since 2004. He has experience in public-private partnerships and in the representation of parties in defaulted transactions, including Chapter 9

bankruptcy proceedings. Mr. Sparks was named 'Lawyer of the Year' in 2014 for Public Finance Law - Kansas City, MO by *The Best Lawyers in America* and is regularly recognized by *Chambers*, *SuperLawyers* and *Best Lawyers*.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Bar Association – Section of Urban, State and Local Government Law, Real Estate and Probate Law
- National Association of Bond Lawyers – served as a member of the Committees on Secondary Market Disclosure and Securities Law
- Lawyers Association of Kansas City
- Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association

ADMISSIONS

- Missouri, 1979
- United States District Courts for the District of Kansas and Western District of Missouri

EDUCATION

University of Missouri-Kansas City, J.D., with distinction, 1979

University of South Florida-New College, B.A., 1976

RELATED PRACTICE AREAS

- Financial Regulation Compliance & Investigations
- Sports & Event Financing
- Funds Finance
- Sports & Entertainment Contract, Endorsement & Celebrity Representation Practice
- Anti-Doping Practice
- Sports & Event Venue Real Estate Infrastructure and Operation
- Naming Rights & Sponsorship Practice
- Sports & Entertainment M&A Practice
- Sports & Entertainment Litigation Practice

- Collegiate Sports Practice
- Sports & Entertainment Specialty Counseling Practice
- Entertainment Industry Practice
- Workouts & Financial Restructuring
- Wealth Management
- Subchapter S
- Going Private
- Community Banking Litigation
- De Novo Banking
- Olympic & National Governing Body Practice
- Professional Sports Team Practice
- Bank Transactions & Strategy
- Bank Regulatory Compliance, Operational Support & New Products
- Regulation, Compliance & Advisory
- Financial Services Corporate & Regulatory Team
- Corporate
- Finance
- Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Real Estate
- Commercial Real Estate
- Investigations
- Banking Sector
- Financial Services
- Infrastructure
- Real Estate Private Equity, Investments & REITs
- Sports & Entertainment

RESOURCES

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. Sparks has periodically been a seminar panelist at Annual Bond Attorneys' Workshops.

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Awards

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