



## Keisha S. Palmer

Partner

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Hartford — 860.275.8392

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Keisha S. Palmer focuses her practice on all aspects of financing activities for entities or projects that can benefit from tax-advantaged obligations. As a member of our firm's Business Transactions group, Keisha advises issuers on structuring their transactions to ensure obligations are validly issued and the interest thereon is exempt from federal and state income tax where possible. She assists underwriters of governmental securities with compliance with applicable disclosure and securities laws. Keisha currently serves as chair of the Public Finance Group and is partner in charge of our firm's Hartford office.

### Public Finance

Keisha assists public and private entities in understanding the complexities inherent in transactions involving tax-advantaged obligations. She represents state, municipal, and Indian tribal governments in the issuance of tax-exempt and taxable general obligation bonds and other debt obligations. She serves as bond counsel to issuers of 501(c)(3) bonds, qualified private activity bonds, revenue bonds, tax credit bonds, lease financings, and conduit borrowings. Keisha's work as bond counsel encompasses, among other things, drafting bond authorizations, negotiating indentures, advising clients on refunding transactions, arbitrage rebate liability, changes in use of bond-financed facilities, restructuring tax-exempt obligations due to financial distress, and guiding clients through Internal Revenue Service examinations of bond issues. She represents the State of Connecticut as bond counsel and lead tax counsel. Keisha has assisted municipalities with multi-million dollar bond financings in connection with a variety of projects, such as the construction of a minor league baseball stadium and construction or renovations of various facilities including housing, hospitals and other health care facilities, higher education, private schools, not-for-profit organizations, waste disposal facilities, and water pollution control facilities. As counsel to a large municipality, she drafted model language for proposed amendments to the General Statutes of Connecticut concerning the establishment and governance of stormwater authorities within the State of Connecticut.

### General Corporate Services

Keisha advises clients on general corporate matters, such as issues related to governance and general contracting. She regularly advises quasi-public agencies with respect to compliance with statutes, procedures, bylaws and other applicable governing documents, including compliance with the Connecticut Freedom of Information Act.

During law school, Keisha represented low-income taxpayers before the Internal Revenue Service and the Connecticut Department of Revenue Services as part of the University of Connecticut School of Law's Low-Income Tax Clinic. She also represented indigent clients in appeals of criminal convictions as part of the University of Connecticut School of Law's Criminal Appellate Clinic. As part of the Connecticut Urban Legal Initiative, Keisha advised tax-exempt organizations on corporate structure, fundraising, and qualifying for and maintaining tax-exempt status.

### Services

- Business Transactions

- Finance + Public Finance
- Commercial + Industrial Lending
- Public Finance

## Industries

- Education
- Financial Institutions

## Education

- University of Connecticut School of Law (Juris Doctor, *with honors*)
  - Certificate of Tax Law
  - Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal, Technology Editor
- Central Connecticut State University (Bachelors, *cum laude*)
  - Finance

## Admissions

- State of Connecticut

## Recognitions

Named a "Law Firm Ally of the Year" finalist as part of *Corporate Counsel's* 2025 Women, Influence & Power in Law (WIPL) Awards

Robinson+Cole Diversity, Equity, Inclusion + Belonging Award, 2025

UConn Black Law Students Association 2025 "Light of the Future" Honoree

Hartford Business Journal 2022 "Women in Business" Honoree

Recognized by *The Bond Buyer* as a 2022 "Trailblazing Woman in Public Finance"

Selected as a Rising Star to the Connecticut Super Lawyers list from 2013 to 2019

Robinson+Cole Community Service Award Recipient, 2016

*Connecticut Law Tribune*, recognized in 2014 *New Leaders in the Law Yearbook*

Recognized in the special section "Lawyers of Color: High Achievers," *Connecticut Law Tribune*, 2011

Judge Jerrold H. Barnett '54 Scholarship for Criminal Appellate Advocacy

University of Connecticut, Nina E. Olsen & Janet Spragens Low Income Taxpayer Clinic Award for outstanding representation of low-income taxpayers

University of Connecticut, Dean's Scholar

Robinson+Cole Mentor of the Year Award Recipient, 2018

American Bar Association Commission on Immigration 2022 Pro Bono Champion

Chosen as one of the 2023 honorees for "The 100 Women of Color Gala & Awards"

## **Leadership + Memberships**

### **American College of Bond Counsel**

Regular Fellow of the College

### **National Association of Bond Lawyers**

Section 103 Editorial Board (2019 - 2023)

First Vice-Chair, General Law Committee

### **American Bar Association**

### **George W. Crawford Black Bar Association**

Board of Directors (2011 - 2013)

### **Connecticut Bar Association**

### **Connecticut Association of Municipal Attorneys**

### **Government Finance Officers Association**

### **Northeast Women in Public Finance**

Member, Board of Directors (2020 - Present)

### **Connecticut Bar Foundation**

James W. Cooper Fellow (2018 - Present)

### **University of Connecticut School of Law/Robinson & Cole LLP Summer Law Institute**

### **Hartford Federal Credit Union**

Board of Directors, Chairman

### **Connecticut Retirement Security Authority**

Board of Directors (2015 - 2023)