



Scott A. Kobler

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Public Finance | Healthcare | Government Affairs | Financial Institutions | Life Sciences

Scott Kobler joined the firm in 1982 and its partnership in 1989 and for many years was a member of its Executive Committee. For more than 40 years, he has participated in New Jersey's largest and most complex healthcare transactions, focusing on mergers and acquisitions and capital financings, representing lenders and acute, subacute, and specialized lay and faith-based providers. His practice extends beyond the State of New Jersey and into the higher education, housing, and non-profit sectors.

For over 30 years, Scott has sat on the boards operating New Jersey's public television system, first on the New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (NJN), where he served as chair under five governors. He currently is the chair of Public Media New Jersey (NJ PBS), an affiliate of WNET/Channel 13, and the state's public media network. He is a director of the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, a trustee of the Newark Alliance, and a director of the Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB), an international, faith-based NGO providing long-term, co-operative, medical, and development aid to communities affected by poverty and unequal access to healthcare. For more than 20 years, Scott was a board and Executive Committee member of the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra and was elected a life trustee. He supports the work of Integrity House, the nationally-recognized non-profit substance use disorder treatment center, where he is a past honoree and a member of its President's Council.

He holds an AB from Princeton University (Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs), attended Princeton's Graduate School of Architecture and Urban Planning, and graduated with a JD from the Boston University School of Law. He was a member of Princeton's Alumni Council, as chair of its Committee on Young Alumni and Undergraduates.

NJBIZ named him to its "Law Power 50 List," "Health Care Power 50 List," "2024 Power 100," and as one of the "50 Most Powerful Nonprofit Board Members in New Jersey." *ROI-NJ* has named him as one of its fifty "Healthcare Influencers."

He is the Treasurer of the Booker for Senate campaign.

Representative Matters

Health systems collaboration—Debt restructuring

Represented two collaborating health systems in connection with restructuring seven separate bond/direct loan facilities, along with the development of an innovative security structure tailored to the unique co-membership recently created between these health systems. The "Aa"-rated system borrowed from a major money-center bank and deployed proceeds plus equity to the "Baa"-rated affiliate at a rate derived from the preferred credit, with a 15-year moratorium on principal amortization. This structure created a window to allow the affiliate to utilize cash flow savings for capital and operating flexibility with the affiliate having only one related creditor.

Major health system—Receivership management guidance

Guided a major health system in connection with its appointment as the manager of a troubled nursing home that was in the national news during the pandemic. Operating under a receivership and overseeing the critical care of residents as operations discontinued, our client swiftly moved to depopulate the SNF. We worked in conjunction with state regulators after CMS eliminated funding, addressing issues including patient advocates and commercial lenders, along with petitioning the court as part of a process to best protect the quality of care for the residents, many of whom suffered from severe acuties.

NJ health system—Separation from legacy parent

Represented a New Jersey health system in connection with its separation from an out-of-state health system, including related legacy financing matters and approval of the proposed settlement and transfer of ownership by the New Jersey Attorney General and the New Jersey Department of Health. Promptly pivoted to reentering the public debt market as a stand-alone system with an operating history that was co-mingled with the legacy parent.

Faith-based health system—Sale of skilled nursing facility

Guided an urban, safety-net, faith-based healthcare system in the sale of its skilled nursing facility – a division of an acute care provider – extracting those components that applied just for the SNF, but preserving stewardship by the founding religious congregation as well as SNF care for its aging members. This shortly followed representing that same system in its investment in a novel supportive housing project, designed to locate low-income residents closer to clinical care.

Faith-based university—Debt restructuring

Represented a faith-based university in the restructuring of its debt in forbearance, as well as other debt, creating a new master trust and covenant structure, reducing lenders from five to two, with tax-exempt and taxable pieces, converting a construction loan to permanent financing, while creating a debt structure more conducive to the long-term operating needs and plans of the university.

Acute-care hospital—Healthcare systems transaction

Represented an acute-care hospital and its affiliates in its affiliation with New Jersey's largest academic health system. The transaction involved filings required by Hart-Scott-Rodino with the Federal Trade Commission, CHAPA approval by the New Jersey Attorney General's Office and the Superior Court, and approval of The Holy See.

Multiple health systems—Merger, acquisition, and affiliation counsel

Serving as counsel to multiple health systems in connection with their merger and acquisition activity; navigation through corporate structuring, contracting, due diligence, obtaining approvals, and closing; assistance in addressing financing restrictions; assistance in addressing religious affiliations; and counsel on affiliation transactions which created clinical and strategic affiliations.

Community hospital—Merger resulting in bankruptcy avoidance

Represented a community hospital in its acquisition by a five-campus, out-of-state health system, which included consultant's engagement, forbearance and debt counseling, definitive agreement negotiations, Hart-Scott-Rodino filing, CHAPA filings and court appearance, debt restructuring, and bond issuance. Rather than seeking bankruptcy protection, the hospital worked with us to find a merger partner and we handled all aspects of the health care and financial approvals necessary to close on the merger. This transaction notably included an application to the State Attorney General's office for

approval of the merger under the State's regulatory scheme, the management of the defaulted bondholder and the related negotiation of the defaulted debt, the treatment of trade payables, and the issuance of replacement debt. As a result, the hospital avoided a costly and lengthy bankruptcy process and was able to continue serving its community.

Continuing care retirement communities throughout New Jersey—Bond counsel

Served as bond counsel for over \$1 billion of tax-exempt financings issued over 20 years for New Jersey continuing care retirement communities situated in Bridgewater, Morristown, Riverdale, Tinton Falls, Liberty Corner, Newton, West Caldwell, Freehold, Cherry Hill, Moorestown, Denville, Whiting, Medford, Hightstown, Monroe, Montgomery, and Maplewood. Served on financings for all of the New Jersey's major subacute providers.

New Jersey's largest acute care providers—Bond, bank, underwriters', and provider counsel

Served as bond, bank, underwriters', and provider counsel for billions of dollars of debt, financing facilities providing thousands of acute care beds for many of New Jersey's largest providers.

Museum—Gift acceptance and building financing

Served as counsel to a museum in connection with the donation of a unique collection of musical instruments and automated items, and the financing of an addition.

Multiple higher education institutions and university health care centers—Transfer of medical and dental schools into a state university

Served as principal outside transactional counsel for transfer of all rights to certain schools, institutes, and university centers of health sciences to a state, in connection with legislative and statutory issues, debt obligation analyses, contract law analyses, tax analyses, non-profit, charitable organization issues, and due diligence production and analyses, in addition to counselling the governing boards as well as day-to-day collaboration with the Office of the General Counsel. The transaction represented the most complex higher education and health care reorganization ever undertaken within the State of New Jersey and among those nationally.

Continuing care retirement community—Merger

Represented a stand-alone, non-profit CCRC in all aspects of its merger into a large senior living entity.

Community hospital—Merger

Represented an acute care community hospital which owns and controls, through a sole corporate membership structure, a charitable foundation and owns or controls, directly or indirectly, the additional entities. Hospital and larger health system have executed an affiliation and merger agreement relating to a full statutory merger. Work included consultant's engagement, forbearance and debt counseling, definitive agreement negotiations, Hart-Scott-Rodino filing, CHAPA filings and court appearance, debt restructuring, and bond issuance.

Three-campus health system—Various debt issues

Represented three-campus system in connection with debt issues regarding the acquisition of one of its campuses; the issuance of \$130 million of new money and refunding bonds, including the current refunding of bonds; the payment of, or reimbursement for, certain capital expenditures; capital structure counseling with respect

to the acquisition of a hospital; and extension of \$180 million of credit facilities securing other publicly traded debt.

Two-campus health system—Corporate reorganization

Represented a two-campus system in connection with corporate reorganization and the issuance of two issues of \$40 million of refunding debt through direct bank placements.

Two health systems—Federal tax controversies

Represented two health systems in connection with federal tax controversies related to total return swaps.

Large campus construction project—Development counsel

Served as development counsel for a large campus construction project including three financing components for a new medical/surgery building and parking facilities.

National healthcare REIT—Local counsel

Served as local counsel for a national healthcare REIT which invested in, and participated in the ownership of, two for-profit hospitals.

Captive insurers for two hospital systems—Counsel

Serving as counsel for captive insurers for two hospital systems.

Hospital—Successful mediation

Obtained a successful resolution of the mediation of a hospital's swap with a defaulted counterparty.

Skilled nursing and assisted living provider—FHA-insured refunding

Represented a skilled nursing and assisted living provider in FHA-insured refunding and conventional new money financing.

Acute care hospital—Medical office building development

Represented an acute care hospital in the development of a medical office building on the existing medical center campus. This initiative represented an innovative means by which the medical center implemented various campus improvements via a complex structure that implicates its capital debt but does not require the incurrence of additional indebtedness.

Health system—Standby bond purchase agreement

For a health system, extended a standby bond purchase agreement, extended a letter of credit, addressed issues with respect to proton therapy center, and represented the health system with a capital asset loan for financing of linear accelerator.

Hospital—Medicare outlier settlements

Assisted in and supported several Medicare outlier settlements by counseling on "ability to pay" analyses for a hospital. We also handled its forbearance negotiations with three lenders and waivers regarding its self-insurance captive.

Acute care system—Removal of liabilities and debt restructuring

Removed all of the looming "put" liabilities and restructured an acute care system's debt, removing letter of credit and swap valuation liabilities.

Hospital and a continuing care retirement community—Siting of solar facilities and PPA agreement

Represented a hospital and a CCRC in the siting of solar facilities and power purchase agreements, including compliance with existing debt documents.

Long-term acute care hospital—Site negotiations

Negotiated the siting of a long-term acute care hospital with a for-profit provider on the floor of a non-profit acute care hospital.

Major underwriting firms—Underwriter's counsel

Represented major underwriting firms in \$400 million of bonds for New Jersey's largest healthcare system.

Major money center bank—Letters or credit and liquidity facilities

Represent a major money center bank in multiple letters or credit and liquidity facilities.

Two money center banks—Credit facility

Represented two money center banks in a \$175 million taxable credit facility.

Major national bank—Lender's counsel

Represented a major national bank as a substantial secured lender in the forbearance and restructuring of the debt of a large health system with over \$1 billion outstanding.

Major underwriting firms—Bond refunding

Represented major underwriting firms in refunding of \$100 million of bonds for Catholic community hospital and skilled nursing facility.

Assisted living facility—Bond counsel

Served as bond counsel for IRC 142(d) financing of stand-alone assisted living facility.

National bank—Debt restructurings

Represented a major national bank on multiple financings including debt restructurings and lines and letters of credit in the Northeast.

New Jersey's major subacute providers—Bond counsel

Serving as ongoing bond counsel on financings for all of the New Jersey's major subacute providers.

Assisted living facilities throughout New Jersey—Bond counsel

Served as bond counsel for the financing of hundreds of units in assisted living facilities throughout the State of New Jersey.

Community theater, three museums, and an orchestra—Bond counsel

Served as bond counsel to a community theater, three museums, and an orchestra.

Education

Boston University School of Law, JD, 1982

Princeton University, AB, 1978

Bar Admissions

New Jersey

Court Admissions

U.S. District Court, District of New Jersey

Memberships and Certifications

Public Media NJ, Inc. (NJ PBS)

Chair, 2019–present

Trustee and Member of the Executive Committee, 2012–present

New Jersey Performing Arts Center

Member of Board of Directors, 2017–present

Catholic Medical Mission Board (CMMB)

Director, 2019–present

New Jersey Public Broadcasting Authority (NJN)

Chair and Member of the Executive Committee, 1992–1994, 2004–2008

Commissioner, 1991–1998, 2002–2010

New Jersey Network Foundation

Trustee, 1993–2012

Secretary of the Board, Member of the Executive Committee, Recipient of Chairman's Award, 1999

Award for Service, 2003

New Jersey Motion Picture and Television Development Commission

Commissioner, ex officio, 1992–1994, 2004–2008

New Jersey Symphony Orchestra

Life Trustee, 2017–present

Executive Committee, 1996–2014

Trustee, 1995–2016

Recipient of Betty McAllister Award for Volunteerism, 2003

Newark Alliance

Trustee, 2009–present

The Morris Museum

Trustee, 2007–2011

Essex Fells Board of Education

Member, 2001–2003

President, 2002–2003

Leadership New Jersey, a Program of The Partnership for New Jersey

Leadership Fellow, Class of 1995

American Health Lawyers Association

American Bar Association

Health Law Section

Essex County Bar Association

National Association of Bond Lawyers

New Jersey Bar Association

Health Law Section

Recognitions*

The Best Lawyers in America, Health Care Law and Public Finance Law, New Jersey, 2023 and 2024

Chambers USA, Healthcare, New Jersey, 2008–2023

NJBIZ, Power 100 List, 2024

Leaders in Law Honoree, NJBIZ, 2023

New Jersey Super Lawyer, 2005–2021

NJBIZ, Law Power 50, 2021

NJBIZ, Power 50 in Healthcare

NJBIZ, ICON Award, 2020

* No aspect of this or any advertisement has been approved by the Supreme Court of New Jersey. For ranking methodologies, please see [here](#).

Alerts

Next Stop, Revalidation Station: CMS Final Rule for Nursing Home Transparency to Prompt Off-Cycle Revalidation, Revised Form CMS-855A, and Sub-regulatory Guidance, Healthcare Alert, 12.4.2023

Latest Resources available to NJ Acute and Sub-Acute Care Providers to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, 4.2.2020

New Tax Law Provisions Encourage Investments in Low-Income Communities, Impact Investing Alert, 2.6.2018

Notice 2014-67 – Safe Harbors for ACOs and a New Management Contract Safe Harbor for Everyone, Public Finance / Health Care Alert, 10.28.2014

Health Law Insights Newsletter – Issue 4, McCarter & English Newsletter, 7.1.2014

Health Law Insights Newsletter – Issue 3, McCarter & English Newsletter, 5.6.2014

Health Law Insights Newsletter – Issue 2, McCarter & English Newsletter, 4.24.2014

Health Law Insights Newsletter – Issue 1, McCarter & English Newsletter, 3.17.2014

Articles

What's the State of M&A Market Post-pandemic? An Expert Weighs In, NJBIZ, 10.3.2022

Speaking Engagements

New Jersey Hospitals – Current Marketplace Trends, Healthcare Financial Management Association, 10.10.2014

Redevelopment in New Jersey: Strategies for Success, 4.3.2014

Health Care Facilities and Redevelopment, 2014 Annual Redevelopment Law Institute, 1.31.2014

Webinars

Achieving Racial Equity in Healthcare: Solutions to Maternal Health Disparities, McCarter's Social Justice Project, 5.2.2022

A Journey Along America's Freedom Trail, McCarter's Social Justice Project, 12.9.2020

Quoted

The Role of Public Broadcasting in Our Democracy, THIRTEEN, 1.6.2021

Eds & Meds' Are in a Race to Finish Line for Financing, ROI-NJ, 11.22.2017

The Art of (Financing) The Deal, NJBIZ, 12.26.2016

Is Bigger Really Better for Health Care Legal Services?, NJBIZ, 5.6.2016

McCarter #2 in New Jersey Law Journal bond counsel rankings; Scott Kobler quoted, New Jersey Law Journal, 8.21.2015