



Government

Legal Advisors to Public Entities with Public Impact

Government agencies and officials face increasing demands to serve communities transparently, efficiently, and lawfully. But with limited resources, heightened public scrutiny, and evolving legal requirements, even well-intentioned decisions can carry legal risk.

Hinshaw partners with public entities—municipalities, school districts, housing authorities, transit agencies, park districts, and state and local government bodies—to deliver responsive, cost-effective legal counsel. From day-to-day operations and employment matters to major litigation and regulatory compliance, we provide practical legal solutions that help public sector clients fulfill their mission and protect the public trust.

What sets Hinshaw apart is our deep bench of attorneys with first-hand public sector experience. Our team includes former U.S. Attorneys, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, State's Attorneys, and high-level government officials—including a former Deputy Governor of Illinois, Chief Legal Counsel to the Governor, Chief Counsel for the Illinois Department of Transportation and Department of Natural Resources, and Chairman of the Illinois Gaming Board. This institutional knowledge allows us to anticipate challenges, craft defensible policies, and deliver effective representation aligned with the realities of public service.

We have served as outside general counsel, special assistant attorneys general, special state's attorneys, special assistant state's attorneys, and special assistant corporation counsel. Our lawyers have been hearing officers for the Illinois Department of Transportation, the Illinois Commerce Commission, and other key regulatory bodies. Our authorship of *Illinois Municipal Tort Liability*, a leading treatise often cited by the Illinois Supreme Court and federal courts, further demonstrates our role in shaping the legal framework governing public entities.

With a reputation for responsiveness, cost-effective solutions, and results that reflect both legal and political considerations, Hinshaw helps government clients serve their communities effectively, while minimizing risk and protecting the public trust.

Deep Public Sector Experience: We have represented hundreds of public entities—serving as outside general counsel, litigation counsel, and labor negotiators—with an understanding of both legal risk and political reality.

Litigation Strength Backed by Policy Insight: From civil rights suits and employment litigation to land use disputes and tort defense, our lawyers resolve high-exposure claims while helping agencies strengthen policies and minimize future liability.

Responsive, Budget-Conscious Representation: We deliver timely, focused counsel aligned with the fiscal responsibilities and decision-making structure of public agencies.

Areas of Focus

Civil Rights & Constitutional Litigation

We defend public entities and officials in claims under §1983, Title VII, ADA, and other federal and state laws. Our team handles cases involving excessive force, First Amendment retaliation, equal protection, due process, wrongful conviction, false arrest, and malicious prosecution.

Environmental Compliance & Risk Management

We counsel on environmental enforcement, site remediation, regulatory compliance, disaster response, and transactional due diligence. Our team supports public clients with loss prevention and sustainability planning.

Government Contracts, Procurement & Certification

We assist public and private clients in RFP/RFQ development, bidding disputes, contract negotiations, vendor litigation, and disadvantaged business certifications. We also advise on set-aside program compliance and audit defense.

Government Investigations & Regulatory Counsel

We represent agencies and officials in investigations by inspectors general, legislative bodies, and administrative agencies. We also advise on licensing, ethics inquiries, and professional discipline proceedings.

Land Use, Zoning & Public Infrastructure

Counseling on development agreements, eminent domain, annexation, permitting, zoning variances, tax increment financing (TIF), and public-private partnerships (P3s). Our lawyers help agencies promote growth while balancing community interests.

Municipal Law & General Counsel Services

Serving as outside general counsel to public bodies, we advise on governance, open meetings, ethics, procurement, FOIA, legislative drafting, ordinance development, and parliamentary procedure. We help maintain day-to-day compliance and long-term institutional stability.

Police, Fire & Public Safety

Advising on policies, employment matters, collective bargaining, and risk management for first responders. We defend law enforcement and public safety agencies in civil rights, employment, and injury-related litigation.

Public Employment & Labor Relations

Our attorneys represent government employers in collective bargaining, labor disputes, grievance arbitration, disciplinary actions, terminations, and wage/hour compliance. We advise on employee handbooks, union negotiations, and public sector benefits issues.

Public Finance & Bond Counsel Services

We serve as bond and underwriter's counsel for tax-exempt and taxable financings, including drafting ordinances, trust indentures, and issuing legal opinions. We advise on federal and state finance laws, public borrowing, and tax-exempt structuring.

Advancing Public Service Through Smart Legal Strategy

Hinshaw helps government entities fulfill their responsibilities to the public while minimizing legal exposure. With deep experience in the legal, political, and operational realities of public service, we deliver clear, cost-effective counsel that supports both governance and growth.

Insights

Event

Oct 27, 2025

Colleen Jarrott Explores CCUS Strategies for Heavy Industry at Annual Carbon Capture USA 2025

Event

Oct 23, 2025

Colleen Jarrott Presents on CCS at the 2025 Gulf Coast Land Institute

In The News

Sep 30, 2025

Carol Rooney Touts the Mission and Membership Benefits of the ABA TIPS Appellate Advocacy Committee

Employment Law Observer
Sep 23, 2025

Presidential Executive Order Seeks to Eliminate Disparate Impact Liability: Here's What Employers Need to Know

In The News
Sep 18, 2025

Firm Managing Partner Robert Shannon and the Leadership Greater Chicago 2025 Daniel Burnham Fellowship Cohort Profiled in *Crain's Chicago Business*

Event
Sep 5, 2025

Colleen Jarrott Shares Legal Insights on CCS at LSU CO2 Symposium

Event
Aug 28, 2025

Colleen Jarrott and Michele Hale DeShazo Headline NOBA Energy Law CLE

In The News
Aug 22, 2025

Tom Luetkemeyer Comments on the Significance of a Trio of EEOC Lawsuits Challenging Employer COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates

Hinshaw Alert
Aug 10, 2025

New Session, New Laws, New Lens: How Louisiana's 2025 Legislative Session and the Federal One Big Beautiful Bill Act Have Reshaped Carbon Capture & Storage Development

Webinar
Aug 8, 2025

Vaishali Rao Breaks Down the Future of State Regulatory Oversight in AccountsRecovery.net Webinar

Event
Aug 6, 2025

Vaishali Rao Participates in Fireside Chat on State Attorney General Enforcement at 2025 RMAI Executive Summit

Colleen Jarrott Named a 2025 Leadership in Law Honoree by *New Orleans CityBusiness*

To Find Out More Contact



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Related Capabilities

Aviation & Aerospace

Cannabis

Complex Commercial Litigation

Construction

Employment Litigation

Energy & Environment

Environmental

Litigation & Trial

Manufacturing

Real Estate

Regulatory & Compliance

Tax

Transportation & Mobility