

## CHICAGO

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## BLOOMINGTON

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## Services

Public Finance

- Disclosure Counsel Services
- Economic Development
- K-12 Education Finance and Election Law

## Industries

Government and Public Sector

## Education

University of Illinois College of Law,  
J.D., 2016

University of South Carolina, B.S.  
B.A., 2013

## Bar Admissions

Illinois



## Austin C. Root

Principal

Austin Root is a principal in Miller Canfield's Public Finance Group. He serves as bond counsel and disclosure counsel to various governmental entities across Illinois, including school districts, cities, villages, counties, park districts, and special districts. Additionally, Austin acts as underwriter's counsel for multiple municipal bond underwriters.

Austin's expertise encompasses a wide range of municipal finance transactions, including general obligation bonds, revenue bonds, special service area bonds, tax increment bonds, industrial development revenue bonds, and Section 501(c)(3) revenue bonds. He also provides counsel to both public and private entities on municipal and state governmental matters, including tax increment financing, special service areas, contract procurement, and cannabis licensing.

Austin holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, cum laude, from the University of South Carolina, with a major in finance and a minor in economics. He earned his J.D., magna cum laude, from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he served as Managing Editor of the Illinois Business Law Journal and participated in the American Bar Association Negotiation Competition.

Austin is licensed to practice law in Illinois. He is an active participant in professional organizations such as the National Association of Bond Lawyers and the Illinois Tax Increment Association.

Austin has been recognized as one of The Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch in Public Finance Law and Municipal Law, and he has been named an Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Star multiple times. He frequently shares his knowledge at industry events, speaking on topics related to municipal finance and economic development.

Austin C. Root

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## Honors

The Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch, Public Finance Law, 2021-2024

The Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch, Municipal Law, 2024

Illinois Super Lawyers Rising Stars, 2019-2025

## Professional Activities

National Association of Bond Lawyers

Illinois Tax Increment Association

## Speeches

"STAR Bonds: A New Financing Tool," Illinois Government Finance Officers Association (IGFOA) Webinar, May 4, 2026

"After the Storm: How Cities Can Finance Their Recovery," Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) 2025 National Development Finance Summit, October 9, 2025

"Exploring Innovative Solutions for Disaster Recovery Funding," Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA) National Development Finance Summit, November 13–15, 2024

"Municipal Bonds Market Update," Illinois Municipal Treasurers Association (IMTA), June 25–27, 2023

"Structuring the Deal," Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), March 13–14, 2023

"The Partners Involved," Council of Development Finance Agencies (CDFA), August 4–5, 2021

"Issuing Bonds Utilizing Tax Increment Finance and Special Service Areas," IGFOA, April 22, 2021

"Tax-Exempt Bonds and Arbitrage," CDFA, August 12-13, 2020

"New Tools for a New Decade," South Suburban Economic Development Incentive Event, March 5, 2020

"Combining & Leveraging TIF with Other Tools," CDFA, August 15–16, 2019

"Understanding TIF Bond Financing," CDFA, August 15–16, 2019

"Update on Illinois Bond Market & Financing Structure," South Suburban Economic Development Incentives Event, March 7, 2019

"Debt Issuance - The Process and The Players," IGFOA, June 21, 2018

"Basic Legal Requirements on Municipal Bond Issues," IGFOA, June 21, 2018

**Austin C. Root**

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"Multi-State TIF Comparisons (Indiana/Illinois/Ohio/Wisconsin)," Illinois Tax Increment Association Spring 2018 Conference, April 4–6, 2018

"The Partners Involved in Every Bond Transaction," CDFA, August 8–9, 2017

**Articles**

Financing Options for Illinois Cities and Villages