



## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### *Legal Foundations and Strategic Structuring of Lease Financing*

Part 1: May 12, 2026 | 10:00-11:30AM

Part 2: May 21, 2026 | 10:00-11:30AM

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#### **MARGARET (MARGIE) BACKSTROM**

*Managing Director and Co-Head of Public Sector Group*  
Morgan Stanley  
San Francisco, CA

Margaret Backstrom is a Managing Director and Co-Head of Public Sector Banking for Morgan Stanley's Public Finance Department based in San Francisco, with over 27 years of experience as a public finance investment banker. Ms. Backstrom joined Morgan Stanley as an Analyst in Public Finance in New York. After completing a rotation in corporate finance, she left Morgan Stanley to attend business school and returned to Morgan Stanley's Public Finance Department in San Francisco in 2001. She was named Head of the Western Region Infrastructure Group in 2016 and Co-Head of Public Sector Banking in 2024. Ms. Backstrom's clients include some of the largest issuers in the country, including the states of California and Oregon, the cities of Los Angeles, San Diego, Denver, Phoenix, and Sacramento, the counties of Sacramento, San Bernardino, and Los Angeles, and a number of water districts, sewer districts, transportation districts, special districts, and airports across eight western states. She is an expert in a wide variety of bond structures and credits, having senior managed more than \$40 billion in financings for public sector clients. Previously, Ms. Backstrom worked for a small online financial services company, most recently as Vice President of Business Development and Marketing.

Ms. Backstrom earned a master's degree in business administration from the Stanford Graduate School of Business and an undergraduate degree in economics from Stanford University. Ms. Backstrom lives in San Francisco with her two sons and dog, and enjoys downhill skiing, watching youth sports and traveling.

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**DAVID BRODSKY**

*Managing Director*  
KNN Public Finance  
Berkeley, CA

David Brodsky is a Managing Director at KNN Public Finance and a registered municipal advisor. Over the past 28 years, he has served as financial advisor to numerous cities in California, ranging in size from Bishop, with a population of 3,800, to the City of Los Angeles, with a population of 3.9 million, as well as various counties, special districts, state agencies, and educational districts throughout California. Prior to joining KNN in 1998, Mr. Brodsky was a Vice President and Senior Credit Officer with Moody's Ratings in San Francisco and was a member of Moody's national rating committee.

Mr. Brodsky began his career with the City of Los Angeles, where for twelve years he was responsible for financial planning, debt issuance, and bond administration for general government departments. Among his achievements were creating the City's leasing corporation, the Municipal Improvements Corporation of Los Angeles.

Mr. Brodsky is a graduate of the University of California, Santa Cruz, with a degree in modern society and social thought and is the author of a book on Los Angeles, *L.A. Freeway: An Appreciative Essay*, published by UC Press.

**DANIEL (DAN) DEATON**

*Partner*  
Nixon Peabody, LLP  
Los Angeles, CA

Daniel Deaton is a Partner in the public finance group of Nixon Peabody LLP. He represents governmental agencies, nonprofit corporations, underwriters, and others as bond counsel, disclosure counsel, and underwriter's counsel in a wide variety of tax-exempt and taxable public finance transactions. Mr. Deaton has considerable experience in general funds, water, transportation, university, and cultural institution

financing. He also has extensive experience in a wide variety of transaction structures, including traditional fixed-rate bonds, variable-rate demand bonds, commercial paper, and index tender rate bonds.

Mr. Deaton earned a Juris Doctor from Southern Methodist University and received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Irvine.



**JOHN PALMER**

*Partner*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe  
San Francisco, CA

John Palmer is a partner in Orrick's San Francisco office. Mr. Palmer focuses his practice on financing for cities, counties, and community college districts and school districts. His practice includes serving as bond and disclosure counsel on revenue and tax-supported bond transactions in a variety of financing structures, including fixed rate bonds, variable rate bonds, synthetic fixed rate bonds, and conduit issues.



**MELISSA SHICK**

*Managing Director*  
KNN Public Finance  
Berkeley, CA

Melissa Shick serves as a municipal advisor at KNN Public Finance. She joined KNN in 2016 and has over 20 years of combined public sector, public finance investment banking, and municipal advisory experience. Ms. Shick began her career in public finance serving as a fiscal policy analyst for Alameda County, California. After several years in public service, in 2007, Ms. Shick started a career in public finance investment banking where she served as a banker in the Public Finance Departments of J.P. Morgan and RBC Capital Markets.



In her role at KNN, Ms. Shick advises a diverse mix of public agencies including city and county local governments and a number of utility, transportation, and other special district clients. She is experienced in structuring and leading financing for various credit types, including general obligation, lease revenue, water and utility revenue, and special tax revenue bonds. Ms. Shick has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Washington and a master's degree in public policy from the University of Chicago. She holds a Series 50 license.

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**ANNA VAN DEGNA**

*Public Finance Director*

City and County of San Francisco  
San Francisco, CA

Anna Van Degna serves as the Public Finance Director for the City & County of San Francisco. In her role, she oversees the issuance of all new debt secured by property taxes and general fund sources, initiates the City's debt policies and procedures and provides technical expertise for the preparation and monitoring of the City's Ten-Year Capital Plan.

Previously, Ms. Van Degna was a Managing Director at Stifel where she structured over 250 municipal bond transactions for California cities, counties, and special districts. Prior to joining Stifel in 2002, she worked in the investment banking division of Morgan Stanley. Ms. Van Degna has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Hospitality Administration from Cornell University.

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