

Glossary of Terms

- Issuer Governmental entity that issues bonds
- Financial Advisor/Municipal Advisor Financial advisor (municipal advisor) to an Issuer
- **Underwriter** Company that purchases an issue of bonds
- SEC Federal Securities and Exchange Commission
- OS Official Statement
- CDC Continuing Disclosure Certificate
- EMMA Electronic Municipal Market Access http://emma.msrb.org
- Dissemination Agent Agreement Agreement between Issuer and company that will post disclosure material on EMMA

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Disclosure Training Objectives

- Gain a better understanding of your post-issuance responsibilities and how to manage them
- How do we get there? This session will provide...
 - Overview of regulatory oversight and applicable rules relating to disclosure
 - Review of the contents of a Continuing Disclosure Certificate and Disclosure Policy
 - Discussion of how to comply with disclosure requirements



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Purpose of Disclosure

- The SEC wants municipal issuers to provide ongoing information about their debt issues
 - Ensures market transparency by making information available to the public
 - Ensures Bonds sold to investors on the secondary market are properly priced based on information provided by Issuers



SEC Authority

- Issuers are subject to anti-fraud provisions of federal securities laws
- The SEC regulates Underwriters through Rule 15c2-12 (the "Rule") under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; because of the Rule, Underwriters are required to ensure that the Issuer <u>contractually</u> agrees to provide certain ongoing continuing disclosures



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Rule 15c2-12

- Two aspects of the Rule
 - 1) Prohibits an Underwriter from purchasing or selling Bonds without first determining the Issuer has agreed to provide ongoing disclosure of certain information, including
 - Annual financial information (often more than just audited financial statements)
 - · Material event notices
 - Requires the final Official Statement to include a description of any material non-compliance with continuing disclosure obligations in the five years prior to the offering



Sample Official Statement





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Responsibility for Official Statement

- Issuers are primarily responsible for the content of their disclosure documents, regardless of who prepared the document
- An Issuer does not discharge its disclosure obligations by hiring professionals to prepare the official statement
- An Issuer has "an affirmative obligation" to know the contents of its official statement, including the financial statements
- Executing an official statement without first reading the document to ascertain whether it is accurate may be reckless (the basis for certain anti-fraud causes of action by the SEC)



Responsibility for Official Statement

- The SEC can bring enforcement actions against Issuers, members of its governing body, government employees and officials, and professionals working on the issue
 - As an example, in 2008 the SEC charged several former San Diego city officials with fraud in connection with false and misleading statements in the official statement. In October of 2010, four of the former San Diego city officials settled with the SEC, agreeing to financial penalties ranging from \$5,000 to \$25,000 (this was the first instance of the SEC securing financial penalties against city officials in a muni bond fraud case).
 - In another example, in 2013, the SEC charged the City of Miami and its former budget director with securities fraud in connection with several bond offerings and disclosures made to the public.
 - (more on this later)



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Final Official Statement

• To satisfy Rule 15c2-12, an Official Statement often includes a statement listing:

"any instances in the previous five years in which [the Issuer] failed to comply, in all material respects, with any previous undertakings in a written [disclosure agreement]."

Example found in an Official Statement:

"During the past five years, the Issuer has not failed to comply, in all material respects, with any previous undertakings it has entered into with respect to the Rule"



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Final Official Statement

- If the Issuer has not complied with the continuing disclosure obligations of previous bond issues, but makes the statement shown on the previous slide as to compliance, this could constitute a material misstatement and subject the Issuer to an SEC enforcement action under anti-fraud provisions of federal securities laws
- Examples of noncompliance with continuing disclosure obligations:
 - Failure to report material event
 - Failure to file annual information
 - Late filing of material event or annual information



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Sample Continuing Disclosure Certificate



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Continuing Disclosure Certificate

- Annual Reports
 - Audited financials
 - Tables, schedules or other financial information contained in the Official Statement, for example:
 - Valuations
 - · Gross Taxable Valuation by Class of Property
 - · Trend of Valuations
 - Larger Taxpayers
 - · Debt Ratios
 - · Levies and Tax Collections
 - Tax Rates



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Continuing Disclosure Certificate Material Listed Events

- 1) Payment delinquencies
- Non-payment related defaults, if material
- Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
- Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
- Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
- Adverse determinations with respect to the tax status of the honds
- Modifications to rights of holders, if material

- 8) Bond calls, if material, and tender offers
- 9) Defeasances
- Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material
- 11) Rating changes
- Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person
- Merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person, if material
- Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material



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SEC Trend of Municipal Entity Oversight

- Before the 2007 financial crisis, the SEC was less focused on municipal entities
- Steps have since been taken to increase federal regulatory oversight (e.g., Dodd Frank Act)
- In recent years the SEC has expressed concern regarding Issuers' compliance with disclosure obligations
- Consequently, the SEC continues its transition into an active regulatory body for Issuers



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2013 Firsts by the SEC

- · SEC penalties assessed against an Issuer
- SEC charges an Issuer with violation of a cease and desist order
- SEC charges an Issuer with falsely stating to bond investors that it had been properly providing annual financial information and notices required as part of its prior bond offerings
- SEC charges an Issuer for materially misleading statements outside of securities disclosure documents
- Demonstration that small size of an Issuer does not equate to a pass for disclosure deficiencies

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Recent Examples of SEC Focus

- City of Harrisburg, PA (May 6, 2013)
 - The SEC charged the City of Harrisburg, PA, with securities fraud for its misleading public statements when its financial condition was deteriorating and financial information available to municipal bond investors was either incomplete or outdated
 - The SEC notes that public officials should be mindful that their written or oral public statements may affect the total mix of information available to investors



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Recent Examples of SEC Focus (cont'd)

- City of Miami, FL (July 16, 2013)
 - In mid-July, the SEC charged the City of Miami and its former Budget Director with securities fraud in connection with several municipal bond offerings and other disclosures made to the bond investing public
 - SEC investigation found that beginning in 2008, Miami and the former Budget Director made materially false and misleading statements and omissions about certain interfund transfers in three 2009 bond offerings totaling \$153.5 million



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Recent Examples of SEC Focus (cont'd)

- West Clark Community Schools (July 29, 2013)
 - "This is the first time the SEC has charged a municipal issuer with falsely claiming in a bond offering's official statement that it was fully compliant with the annual disclosure obligations it agreed to in prior offerings, and an underwriter and its principal for not doing the necessary research to attest to the truthfulness of that claim," said Andrew Ceresney, Co-Director of the Division of Enforcement. "West Clark Community Schools defrauded bond investors by leading them to believe that it had provided the annual financial information contractually required in a prior bond offering, when in fact for five years they failed to submit the required information. This case demonstrates that we will be vigilant in making sure municipal issuers and underwriters comply with their obligations."



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2014 SEC Increasing Involvement

- On March 10, 2014, the SEC announced its "Municipalities Continuing Disclosure Cooperation Initiative" (the "MCDC Initiative"), which allowed Issuers to self-report instances of materially inaccurate statements in official statements until December 1, 2014
- Several Issuers and Underwriters participated in the MCDC Initiative to receive favorable settlement terms from the SEC
- MCDC Status Update:
 - 72 Underwriter Orders
 - 72 Issuer Orders



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MCDC 2015-2016 Underwriter Orders

- The SEC issued orders against 72 Underwriters
 - Fined \$18 million in the aggregate, ranging from \$20,000 to the \$500,000 ceiling per Underwriter
 - Orders were issued in 3 batches
 - June 18, 2015
 - September 30, 2015
 - February 2, 2016
 - Orders include one to three examples of noncompliance per Underwriter, which provide the basis of determining what the SEC considers to be material noncompliance and misrepresentations



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Examples of Material Non-compliance

- An Official Statement must disclose any of the following
 - Failure to make at least one Audited Financial Statement or Annual Report filing
 - Annual filing made at least 33 days late
 - Failure to file cross-reference to annual filing elsewhere on EMMA
 - Failure to file material event notice regarding the advance refunding and associated redemptions of certain bonds



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Other MCDC Underwriter Order Guidance

- Silence in an Official Statement regarding history of compliance is deemed to be a statement of material compliance
- A notice of failure to comply must also accompany a late/missing filing
- Noncompliance must be disclosed, even if missing filings are updated prior to printing the Official Statement
- A misstatement/omission cannot be "cured" by subsequently filing an amendment to an Official Statement (in one case 4 months after the Official Statement was printed)



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MCDC Issuer Orders

- On August 24, 2016, the SEC publicized 71 settlements with issuers from 45 states based on disclosure failures that occurred between 2011 and 2014
- The issuers that settled included: two states; seven state authorities; 29 localities; seven local authorities; nine school districts or charter schools; six colleges or universities; five health care providers; five utilities; and one retirement community
 - Two of which were Iowa municipalities

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MCDC Issuer Orders

- Issuers settled without admitting or denying the findings and agreed to cease and desist from future violations, and no fines or civil penalties were assessed.
- Each Issuer agreed to establish appropriate written policies, procedures, and training regarding continuing disclosure obligations and comply with their existing continuing disclosure undertakings, including
 - updating past delinquent filings within 180 days;
 - disclose the settlement in future offering documents for the next five years;
 - certify in writing compliance with the undertakings; and
 - cooperate with any subsequent investigations by the SEC



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MCDC Issuer Order Guidance

- Precise Language of History of Noncompliance is Imperative
- Scrupulous research of history of compliance with continuing disclosure undertakings is absolutely necessary to develop precise language
 - Not just administrative checklist that 'some filing' is made
 - Ensure substance of each filing satisfies the Issuer's undertakings



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MCDC Issuer Order Guidance

- As an example of the guidance provided by the SEC:
 - In an order against Idaho Housing and Finance Association, the SEC noted that the Authority "made a materially misleading statement and a material omission about its prior compliance with its earlier continuing disclosure agreement" in stating it "had filed some annual reports late, but failed to disclose that Respondent had not filed the annual financial statements that it had agreed to provide" for prior years and "misrepresented that these financial statements were contained in official statements that had been disseminated earlier;" and in a 2012 "final official statement [which] made no statement about compliance with Respondent's prior continuing disclosure agreement and thereby failed to disclose that Respondent had not filed the annual financial statement that it had agreed to provide for fiscal year 2010 by the time of the offering, though due before."



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MCDC Issuer Order Guidance

- If information is submitted elsewhere on EMMA, the failure to file cross-reference filings is deemed by the SEC to be material non-compliance
- Similarly, timely making filings in the wrong location (and not correcting the location for 245 days) constitutes noncompliance, per the City of Memphis, Tennessee Order
- Failure to link timely filed official statement or annual information to the CUSIP of each outstanding security, constitutes non-compliance per State of Minnesota Order
- Failing to include all required content in the annual financial information constitutes non-compliance, per Lawrence & Memorial Hospital, Inc. and Lawrence & Memorial Corp.



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MCDC Issuer Order Guidance

- Failure to file notice of defeasance constitutes material non-compliance
 - The SEC noted in the Ascension Health Alliance Order that this caused the bonds to be "Trading with significantly different credit structures for up to two years"
- Non-compliance is based on a continuing disclosure agreement entered into and not just Rule 15c2-12.
 - If the Issuer undertakes obligations additional to the minimum required in the rule and fails to comply therewith, such noncompliance must be disclosed
 - Missing or late interim reports (e.g. quarterly reports), though not required by the Rule, must be filed if required by the continuing disclosure undertaking, per the Carilion Clinic, Virginia Order



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MCDC Issuer Order Guidance

- Even if in a private offering involving an offering circular representing compliance, the SEC found an Issuer entering into a continuing disclosure agreement to market the securities must provide an accurate statement of prior noncompliance, Per Sanitary District of the City of Gary, Indiana
- Staleness of non-compliance is not a compelling factor, if occurring within past five years, per City of Andover Kansas, where non-compliance of past three years was disclosed, but not of five-year-old filing



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Continuing Disclosure Obligations Today

 Post-MCDC Initiative, the SEC has advised that any enforcement actions will result in more severe penalties.

"Those who do not self-report and instead decide to take their chances can expect to face increased sanctions for violations."

Andrew J. Ceresney, Director of the SEC Enforcement Division

 Going forward, it is very important for Official Statements to be accurate, including statements relating to continuing disclosure compliance



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Implementing Policies and Procedures Regarding Municipal Securities Disclosure

- To help ensure your compliance with disclosure obligations we recommend Issuers adopt policies and procedures relating to:
 - Primary Disclosure: The disclosure document (Official Statement) for the bonds
 - Secondary Disclosure: Ongoing disclosures associated with outstanding bond issues (aka "continuing disclosure")



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Implementing Policies and Procedures Regarding Municipal Securities Disclosure

- The Dorsey-provided Policies and Procedures (the "Policy") addresses three aspects of disclosure:
 - 1) Preparation and approval of official statements in connection with new bond issues:
 - On-going continuing disclosure requirements under a CDC; and
 - Education of staff and elected officials with respect to disclosure matters.



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1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer

- Under federal anti-fraud law, an OS cannot contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements therein, in the light of the circumstances under which they were made, not misleading
- An Underwriter, Municipal Advisor, or law firm may assist you in preparing the OS, but it <u>is imperative that you</u> <u>review the OS for accuracy before it is published</u>.
 Failing to do so could result in untrue statements, thereby subjecting the Issuer and/or individuals to liability



1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer (Step 1)

 Appendix I of the Policy provides written procedures for preparing the OS, comprised of 5 steps:

Step 1

At the commencement of a financing, the appointed Disclosure Officer shall develop or cause its finance team to develop a plan for preparation of the official statement and a schedule that allows sufficient time for all required work, including appropriate review and participation by members of the financing team and knowledgeable Issuer staff



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1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer (Step 2)

Step 2

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for managing the preparation process for the official statement, and shall obtain the assistance of other participants within the Issuer and legal and financial professionals, as necessary and appropriate



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1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer (Step 3)

Step 3

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for developing a program for coordinating staff review of the disclosure information and obtaining formal sign-off from staff on the disclosure documents



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1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer (Step 4)

Step 4

The Disclosure Officer shall ensure that any previous failure to fully comply with continuing disclosure obligations during the prior five year period is disclosed in the official statement

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1. New Offerings of Bonds – Official Statements of the Issuer (Step 5)

Step 5

The Issuer's governing body shall be given not less than 7 days to review an official statement prior to being asked to vote on its approval, absent extenuating circumstances. Elected representatives on the governing body shall be directed to contact the Disclosure Officer during the review period to discuss potential issues or comments on the official statement.



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance)

- The Issuer will file, or cause to be filed, necessary items under the CDCs in a searchable electronic format at the Electronic Municipal Market Access (EMMA) portal (www.emma.msrb.org).
- To ensure compliance, Appendix II of the Policy provides 13 points for continuing disclosure



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1. Overall Responsibility for CDC Compliance

The applicable employee of the Issuer ("Disclosure Officer") shall be responsible for compliance with the Issuer's CDCs, including:

- Annual filings
- Material event notice filings
- Voluntary filings
- Other filings required by the CDC



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

2. Discussion of CDC

Prior to execution of a CDC in connection with a bond issue, to ensure full understanding of the Issuer's obligations, the CDC shall be discussed with:

- Bond counsel
- Underwriter
- Financial Advisor



3. Public Statements and Information

- The Disclosure Officer shall have primary responsibility for ensuring that statements or releases of information relating to the Issuer's finances to the public that are reasonably expected to reach investors and the financial markets are accurate and not misleading in any material respect, including:
 - · Website updates
 - Press releases
 - Market notices
- The public officials and the Disclosure Officer shall work together to ensure that all public statements and information released by the Issuer are accurate and not misleading in all material respects



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC

4. Outstanding Bond Issues

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for compiling and maintaining a list of all outstanding bond issues subject to continuing disclosure, noting the applicable filing dates. Track this information using "Disclosure Table, Part I" of the Policy

Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

Master Tracking Table

Name of Bond Issue	Date of Issue	Final Maturity Date	Dissemination Agent?	CUSIP for Final Maturity	Deadline for Annual Report

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5. Copies of CDC, OS, Dissemination Agent Agreement Materials.

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for assembling and maintaining copies of the final CDC and final Official Statements for each applicable bond issue, together with any third-party Dissemination Agent Agreements, if applicable



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

6. Documentation/Tracking Information to File

The Disclosure Officer shall document and track the required information to be filed, including dates such information is filed, using "Disclosure Table, Part II" of the Policy

[Name of Bonds][date of issue]	Reporting Periods [inset date info was filed on EMMA]					
Description of Financial Information / Operating Data to file on EMMA	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016		
[audit]						
[list applicable tables in Official Statement]						
[unaudited financials, if audit not available by deadline]						
[other information]						



7. Email Reminders from EMMA

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for registering for continuing disclosure filing email reminders from the "EMMA" website (http://emma.msrb.org).

Dorsey will provide EMMA-specific training in the near future.



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

- 8. Compile Information Required by the CDCs

 At least 30 days prior to the earliest filing deadline listed on the Disclosure Table, the Disclosure Officer shall begin the process of compiling necessary information required by the CDCs
 - This may require coordinating with outside professionals hired to compile this information, such as Dissemination Agent or Municipal Advisor



9. Ensure Completeness of Filing

At least 10 days prior to each filing deadline, the Disclosure Officer shall determine whether all necessary items have been compiled for filing pursuant to the CDC requirements

 This may require coordinating with outside professionals hired to compile this information, such as Dissemination Agent or Municipal Advisor



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

10. Conduct Filing

- At least 3 days prior to each filing deadline, the Disclosure Officer shall file (or cause any Dissemination Agent to file) the necessary items on the EMMA website
- After filing, the Disclosure Officer shall confirm that all items have, in fact, been filed on EMMA as required, and shall note the filing date on the Disclosure Table



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11. Listed Event Filings

- In addition to the continuing disclosure filings, the Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for determining whether any "listed events" have taken place
- If such an event has taken place, the Disclosure
 Officer must discuss the same with its external legal
 and financial professionals and cause the filing of
 notice to be made on EMMA within ten business days
 of such events.
- The 14 Listed Events are included on the following slide (same as earlier slide re Material Listed Events)



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

- 1) Payment delinquencies
- Non-payment related defaults, if material
- Unscheduled draws on debt service reserves reflecting financial difficulties
- 4) Unscheduled draws on credit enhancements reflecting financial difficulties
- Substitution of credit or liquidity providers, or their failure to perform
- Adverse determinations with respect to the tax status of the bonds
- Modifications to rights of holders, if material

- Bond calls, if material, and tender offers
- 9) Defeasances
- Release, substitution, or sale of property securing repayment of the securities, if material
- 11) Rating changes
- Bankruptcy, insolvency, receivership or similar event of the obligated person
- Merger, consolidation, or acquisition involving an obligated person, if material
- 14) Appointment of a successor or additional trustee or the change of name of a trustee, if material



12. Contact Person for Investor Inquiries

The Disclosure Officer shall be the primary contact person for responding to inquiries from investors and for maintaining the investor relations portion of the Issuer's website, if any.



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2. Continuing Disclosure Compliance (CDC Compliance—Appendix II cont'd)

13. Voluntary Information Filing

The Disclosure Officer shall be responsible for coordinating and filing any voluntary information with EMMA, after consultation with the Issuer's legal and financial professionals.

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3. Systematic Training of Staff and Governing Body Members

- Staff and members of the governing body must also be aware of these procedures. Accordingly, continuous training is important to teach new individuals and remind current individuals of the Issuer's continuing disclosure obligations.
- Three formats of training will aid in maintaining effective disclosure policies and procedures
 - 1. Annual Training
 - 2. Specific Training
 - 3. Governing Body Training



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3. Systematic Training of Staff and Governing Body Members (Annual Training)

1. Annual Training

The Disclosure Officer is responsible for scheduling annual training of Issuer employees regarding disclosure and financial reporting requirements of the federal securities laws, including:

- A complete review of:
 - The Issuer's Disclosure Policy, Rule 15c2-12 and the material events required to be reported pursuant to such Rule, and
 - The Issuer's obligations under the federal securities laws
- Within six months after each fiscal year end, the Disclosure Officer shall provide written certification to the governing body that the annual disclosure training has been completed.

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3. Systematic Training of Staff and Governing Body Members (Annual Training)

• Example of Certificate

that the [Issuer Name] has Fiscal Year, as req	ure Officer of the [Issuer Name], hereby certify completed its annual disclosure training for the uired pursuant to the [Issuer Name]'s Policies Municipal Securities Disclosure, adopted
WITNESS MY HAND this _	day of, 20
[Individual's Name] [Disclosure Officer]	
DORSEY" always ahead	ANNUAL TRAINING RE: MUNICIPAL SECURITIES DISCLOSURE

3. Systematic Training of Staff and Governing Body Members (Specific Training)

2. Specific Training

When appropriate, the Disclosure Officer shall conduct (or cause to be conducted) training with individuals on those persons' specific roles and responsibilities in the disclosure and financial reporting process.

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3. Systematic Training of Staff and Governing Body Members (Governing Body Training)

3. Governing Body Training

At least biennially, the Disclosure Officer shall schedule a training session for the Issuer's governing body on:

- 1. Issuer's Disclosure Policy
- 2. Disclosure and financial reporting requirements of the federal securities laws.



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Roles of Bond Counsel vs. Disclosure Counsel

Bond Counsel

- Prepares Resolutions, bonds, loan agreement, closing certificates, CDC, and other closing documents
- Delivers opinion that bonds are valid and legal obligations of the Issuer
- Delivers opinion as to tax-exempt status of the bonds

• Disclosure Counsel

- Conduct diligence on the Issuer and the bond offering
- Prepares or closely reviews Official Statement, in conjunction with the Issuer's review of the Official Statement
- Disclosure Counsel does not prepare or confirm financial information
- Conducts in-depth review of previous continuing disclosure undertakings and the Issuer's compliance with such undertakings
- Delivers "10b-5" opinion to Issuer (and to Underwriter)

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Disclosure Training Take-Aways

- Responsibilities don't end with closing
- There are ongoing, "post-issuance" requirements
 - Annual report disclosure
 - Material event disclosure
- Post-issuance compliance is taking on more significance in light of increased regulatory scrutiny
- Adopt and follow policies and procedures to comply with Federal securities disclosure laws



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Annual Training Re: Municipal Securities Disclosure

Questions?



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Contact Information

Amy Bjork bjork.amy@dorsey.com

Brian Damman damman.brian@dorsey.com

Darla Giese giese.darla@dorsey.com

Robert Josten josten.robert@dorsey.com

Emily Hammond hammond.emily@dorsey.com

James Smith smith.james@dorsey.com

David Claypool claypool.david@dorsey.com

John Danos danos.john@dorsey.com

David Grossklaus grossklaus.david@dorsey.com

Cristina Kuhn kuhn.cristina@dorsey.com

Dorsey & Whitney LLP 801 Grand Avenue, Suite 4100 Des Moines, IA 50309-2790 (515) 283-1000

