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## MUNICIPAL AND GOVERNMENTAL LIABILITY

At Goldberg Segalla, our experienced team of attorneys has worked as counsel to a number of municipalities throughout New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Connecticut. We have the skills to guide municipalities in the full compliance of the applicable codes and laws of each state, and we have successfully defended the municipalities (including school districts) in all claims stemming from alleged violations of the codes/statutes. Our dedication to representing municipal clients involves our willingness to vigorously defend as well as prosecute any lawsuit or appeal that the municipality may face.

The attorneys at Goldberg Segalla can:

- Negotiate contracts for municipalities
- Assist in public works projects
- Counsel clients on labor relations
- Provide training for municipal governments for compliance with state and local human rights laws

In addition, our lawyers have presented many training seminars to municipal groups and school districts in a wide variety of areas, such as employment. We have also worked with municipal governments' insurance carriers to satisfy the carrier's required compliance with training procedures.

## CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

At Goldberg Segalla, we provide an extensive array of construction-related legal services for municipalities and school districts. Our experience includes:

- Transactional issues
- Environmental law matters
- Labor issues and disputes
- Financing for construction projects
- Negotiating contracts, including subcontract agreements
- Helping with the preparation of bid documents and proposals

With respect to construction-related litigation, the firm's attorneys are highly skilled in the defense of claims involving all construction issues from the inception of the contract throughout the building process, to the completion and issuance of the certificate of occupancy. Our experienced team of trial lawyers handles all contract disputes and other claims arising out of the building process, including litigation involving mechanic's liens and arbitration of disputes.

## EDUCATION

Our attorneys counsel educational institutions on a wide variety of matters, including:

- Student disciplinary procedures and codes
- Tenure denial and other faculty employment issues
- Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) and other privacy matters
- Labor, employment and employee benefit issues, including matters involving administrators and staff (such as the defense of claims involving discrimination, sexual harassment and retaliation)
- Federal and state tax exemption

- Corporate and governance matters

With issues involving students, our experience allows us to review student disciplinary procedures and codes, assist in hearings related to student discipline, and render advice regarding search and seizures in the school as well as drug testing. At Goldberg Segalla, our experienced litigators have handled numerous cases involving student injuries on campus or in the classroom, and we have the experience to assist school districts in investigating these claims.

Our experience and knowledge have also allowed us to successfully defend numerous school districts in claims involving sexual abuse of students by teachers, as well as claims of sexual abuse committed by one student upon another. Of course, we understand that these are often extremely sensitive issues, and we pride ourselves on handling each case with the dignity and confidentiality required by our clients as well as the courts.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL**

For issues involving environmental law, the governmental/municipal attorneys at Goldberg Segalla work with our Toxic Tort and Environmental Group. This group is at the forefront of toxic tort litigation, defending environmental contamination and personal injury actions involving exposure to:

- Asbestos
- Silica and mixed dust
- Lead paint
- Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE)
- Caustic chemicals
- Teratogenic substances
- Mold

Goldberg Segalla's attorneys also have extensive experience defending generators, transporters, manufacturers, contractors, property owners and their insurers against claims relating to CERCLA, RCRA, and New York's Navigation Law.

Our municipal clients will benefit from our perspective in handling these types of claims, as well as our experience with issues involving environmental compliance, insurance and financing of projects. The legal advice we provide will encompass all areas of compliance, including matters involving SEQRA, RCRA, TSCA, CERCLA, the Clean Water Act and other issues. Our attorneys can also help municipalities deal with any recovery costs associated with a clean-up project.

## **GENERAL LITIGATION**

Our municipal lawyers have the knowledge to handle all litigation that derives in the judicial or administrative setting, successfully litigating claims in:

- Workers compensation
- Labor Law
- Trip and falls
- Medical malpractice
- Employment
- Environmental

- Highway design
- Parks and recreation
- State and federal civil rights claims
- Contract issues

At Goldberg Segalla, we are experienced in the representation of school districts in sexual abuse litigation, and we have successfully defended these claims to the appellate courts. Our attorneys have years of experience in the courts and administrative forums and can assist a municipal client or school district by providing the best representation possible, including early investigation of all reports of incidents and claims.

## **LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT**

By providing counseling to employers (both public and private), we can help our clients avoid unnecessary litigation involving workplace issues. At Goldberg Segalla, we represent numerous employers, offering assistance with:

- Contract negotiations
- Contract disputes
- Grievances
- Discrimination claims
- Conducting mandatory sexual harassment training for management personnel
- Creating a workplace free from any violations of any state and/or federal codes

Goldberg Segalla also provides full representation in any EEOC or State Division of Human Rights claims. We aggressively defend any charges instituted against employers in all administrative proceedings and judicial forums. Our team of knowledgeable litigators has had great success in defending claims based on age, sex and race discrimination, as well as claims based upon retaliation. Of course, our defense of these claims also includes training our clients so that they may avoid future claims and litigation.

## **ZONING AND LAND USE**

Our attorneys often work with municipalities and boards on applications for developmental projects. Given our experience, we can provide complete guidance to help municipalities and applicants comply with all local and state codes and statutes, including the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). Our attorneys have represented developers, business owners, zoning boards of appeal, and planning and town boards, in a variety of settings including applications for variances and Article 78 proceedings. A number of our lawyers have firsthand knowledge of the inner working of government agencies from past and present experience as members of zoning, planning and town boards.

In addition, the Goldberg Segalla team will assist the municipality in all aspects of land use and zoning issues and will provide the necessary legal advice in handling all regulatory issues that might arise. Our knowledge allows us to take proactive steps that can help our clients avoid future problems. For example, issues involving the rezoning of parcels are handled in such a way that will allow the municipality and property owner protection of property rights and governmental interests. Should litigation result out of SEQRA claims or other issues involving the actions of a planning or zoning board, our team of attorneys will be available to guide our clients through the process.