



Audrey Howard

Partner

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Audrey Howard is a partner in the firm's Litigation Group. Audrey focuses her practice defending and guiding manufacturers, distributors, and retailers in complex litigation matters, including product liability cases, consumer class actions, multi-district litigation, premises liability matters, and warranty and indemnification claims. Additionally, Audrey represents owners in the drafting and negotiation of construction contracts and other development agreements. She has represented state and local government clients in all phases of project development and contract administration.

Audrey is a practical communicator who partners with her clients to understand their goals and determine the appropriate and most cost-effective approach for resolution. She regularly counsels her clients on strategies for pre-suit or early case resolution. Audrey has represented a wide range of manufacturers, distributors, retailers, and suppliers in many different industries, including cosmetics, drugs and devices, agricultural equipment, consumer products, production machinery, and others. She has successfully defeated class certification motions and briefed summary judgment motions for clients on a variety of issues, including lack of product defect, no causation, and *Daubert*.

Originally from Vincennes, Indiana, Audrey earned her Bachelor of Arts in political science from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana, graduating with highest distinction in 2009. Audrey received her juris doctor, *magna cum laude*, from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in 2012. While in law school, Audrey was named to the Order of the Coif and served as the Executive Notes and Comments Editor for the Indiana Law Journal.

Audrey joined Ice Miller in 2012 and is admitted to practice in the state of Indiana, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana, and the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Education

- Indiana University (B.A., 2009)
 - Political Science
- Indiana University Maurer School of Law (J.D., 2012)

Services & Industries

- Class Actions
- Commercial Litigation
- Construction
- Litigation
- Products Liability
- Real Estate Litigation
- Risk & Crisis Management

Admissions

- Indiana
- United States District Court - Northern District of Indiana
- United States District Court - Southern District of Indiana

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers in America®: Ones to Watch*, Commercial Litigation, 2023
- Legal 500 U.S. City Elite Rankings in Indianapolis for Commercial Disputes, 2025

Success Stories

Ice Miller Celebrates Construction Milestone at Indianapolis International Airport Hotel Topping Off Ceremony Marks Major Step Toward 2027 Opening

Members of [Ice Miller's Public Finance team](#) joined leaders from the Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) and The Indianapolis Local Public Improvement Bond Bank to celebrate a major construction milestone on Thursday, May 14, as they joined the topping off ceremony for the new Westin Indianapolis International Airport Hotel — a significant project financed with bonds on which Ice Miller served as bond counsel.

Ice Miller's Role in Indiana Financing

Ice Miller partners [Tyler Kalachnik](#) and [Amy Corsaro](#), along with Senior Counsel [Philip C. Genetos](#), were on hand at Indianapolis International Airport to celebrate the occasion, which signifies the completion of the building's structural framework and a pivotal step toward the hotel's anticipated opening in December 2027.

Ice Miller served as bond counsel to the Indianapolis Airport Authority (IAA) and The Indianapolis Local Public Improvement Bond Bank on the financing of the project which included:

- Issuance of three revenue bond series totaling \$293.6 million to fund in part this transformational project
- Funding backed entirely by general airport revenues
- No taxpayer dollars used

Project Overview: Enhancing the Airport Experience

The 253-room Westin Indianapolis International Airport Hotel will connect directly to the IND terminal parking garage, offering travelers seamless airport access.

Key property features include:

- A full-service restaurant
- A seventh-floor bar and lounge with panoramic airfield views
- Approximately 10,000 square feet of meeting space
- A fitness center
- Dedicated parking with valet service

In addition to improving the traveler experience, the project is expected to:

- Generate 1500 construction jobs, and roughly 140 permanent jobs to help operate the hotel upon opening,

- Further strengthen the airport's role as an economic engine for Central Indiana.

A Unique Legal Structure

The project presented a unique legal challenge requiring an innovative financing approach.

1. Ice Miller's team navigated extensive negotiations with both the hotel franchisor, Marriott, and the operator, Wischermann Partners, ensuring compliance with federal tax law, regulations and guidance.
2. Avoiding private activity bond classification was critical, as private activity hotel bonds are not tax-exempt.
3. By structuring the bonds as general-purpose obligations, Ice Miller helped the IAA:
 1. Preserve the tax-exempt status of the financing
 2. Deliver meaningful savings
 3. Utilize a financing structure that provided a comparably lower interest rate than taxable financing

The Attorneys Involved in the Project

The matter was led by Amy Corsaro, with support from Philip C. Genetos, Tyler Kalachnik, Veronica Hubartt, Susan Price, Audrey Howard (Litigation), and Steven Jones (REEL) — demonstrating the cross-practice collaboration Ice Miller brings to complex public finance engagements.

Ice Miller Represents Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority in Historic Commuter Rail Expansion

Ice Miller LLP represented the Northwest Indiana Regional Development Authority in connection with the NWI Rail Projects, helping to create the largest expansions of commuter rail systems in the state's history.

The two projects represent a nearly \$2 billion investment in capital projects, with an estimated \$3 billion overall economic impact to the region and the state in the next 20 years. The Double Track Project adds nearly 18 miles of new track over a 26-mile corridor along the Northern Indiana Commuter Transportation District's existing South Shore Line between Gary, Indiana and Michigan City, Indiana and makes multiple improvements to the existing line, while the West Lake Project adds a new line approximately 8 miles within Lake County from Hammond to the Munster/Dyer line. This work also includes transit development districts within the communities and surrounding areas where the rail runs.

Ice Miller developed and advocated for the projects' procurement and financing legislation allowing for the delivery of the coordinated projects by three state-related entities. The firm also supported and acquired the significant appropriations from the Indiana General Assembly for the projects, developed a credit enhancing mechanism to codify local Lake County government units funding of aspects of the West Lake Corridor Project. The firm also primarily drafted the agreements between the parties, a first-of-its-kind transit development district statute in the state and provided overall strategic counsel and messaging to the state and local government and agencies.

The Ice Miller team was lead by partners Sebastian Smelko, Rebecca Seamands, Phil Genetos and Audrey Howard.

Thought Leadership

February 18, 2021

Holcomb Signs COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity into Law

February 2, 2021

Indiana Senate Passes COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity Bill

January 12, 2021

Indiana Senate Considers COVID-19 Civil Liability Immunity

November 3, 2020

Early Cases Find PREP Act May Not Shield Employers from Claims They Failed to Provide PPE and Other Precautions, But Recent HHS Advisory Opinion Suggests Otherwise

October 6, 2020

COVID-19 Litigation Update: Contractual Defenses

September 15, 2020

States Provide Shields against COVID-19 Suits

August 11, 2020

President Trump Takes Four New Executive Actions Aimed to Provide COVID-19 Relief

August 10, 2020

Who Are “Covered Persons” Under the PREP Act – Q&A

August 6, 2020

The Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) (codified at 42 U.S.C. § 247d-6d)

April 17, 2020

COVID-19 and Virtual Meeting Best Practices

March 27, 2020

UPDATED: COVID-19 Litigation Trends

March 26, 2020

Immunity Declared For Entities Fighting COVID-19

March 20, 2020

Price Gouging – A Symptom of COVID-19?

March 12, 2020

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) - A Force Majeure Event?

Speaking Engagements

- Co-Speaker, "COVID-19 Litigation Update: Contractual Defenses," December 9, 2020