

Kevin Sheys

Partner

Washington, D.C.

Biography

Kevin Sheys guides railroad and public transit industry clients through transactions and regulatory challenges to help them achieve their objectives.

He advises clients on high-priority freight and passenger railroad, interstate bus, and public transit projects and transactions and handles regulatory matters before the Surface Transportation Board (STB), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), and Federal Transit Administration (FTA).

In the passenger rail, interstate bus, and public transit sectors, Kevin has structured and negotiated more than 40 intercity, commuter, and light rail, streetcar, and bus projects and transactions, including rail line and asset acquisitions, shared use agreements, and regulatory clearances. He has advised government agencies, operators, and rolling stock and equipment suppliers on FRA and FTA compliance issues, including procurement and other third-party contracting requirements, system safety, and Buy America. In the freight rail sector, Kevin has represented buyers in more than 50 rail line acquisitions and advised freight railroads on making effective use of the Interstate Commerce Commission Termination Act (ICCTA) preemption to expedite permitting and environmental clearance of new facilities. He also assists oil, steel,



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Practices

Transportation

Infrastructure, Energy, Resources,
and Projects

Industries

Automotive and Mobility

Energy and Natural Resources

Diversified Industrials

Aerospace, Defense, and
Government Services

Areas of focus

Rail

chemical, agriculture, and heavy manufacturing companies in establishing or expanding rail-served facilities.

In both sectors, Kevin represents locomotive, equipment, and systems manufacturers, rolling stock lessors, suppliers, and service companies on purchases and sales, operations and maintenance contracts, and responses to procurements. His work involves a range of regulatory issues, including licensing, safety, and federal railroad labor, employment, and retirement laws.

Kevin brings versatile knowledge of the railroad and transit industry to our Transportation team through his unique experience while guiding and delivering solutions for clients.

Representative experience

Advised an interstate bus operator on a range of permitting and control approval requirements for an acquisition of additional interstate bus operations.

Advised Denver Regional Transit District on compliance with the full range of FRA safety requirements for the North Metro line, RTD's first self-operated line.

Negotiated an operating agreement for the Port of Oakland regarding a new port rail operator covering expanded facilities on former Oakland Army Base.

Advised the California High-Speed Rail Authority's effort to secure STB authorization for construction of track and facilities in the Central Valley.*

Advised the U.S. subsidiary of a French public transit operator on FTA third-party contracting and safety requirements on a streetcar project and Buy America compliance for the project rolling stock.*

*Matter handled prior to joining Hogan Lovells.

Awards and rankings

Infrastructure and Equipment

Transportation, Utilities, and Public Safety

Rail Finance

Transportation Safety

Education and admissions

Education

J.D., University of Minnesota Law School, cum laude, 1987

B.A., Gustavus Adolphus College, magna cum laude, 1984

Memberships

Member, American Public Transportation Association, Legal Affairs and Commuter Rail Committees

Member, Railway Supply Institute, Washington Affairs Committee

Member, National Railroad Construction and Maintenance Association, Safety Committee

Member, Association of Transportation Law Professionals

Member, Transportation Research Board, Standing Committee on Transit and Intermodal Transportation Law

Bar admissions and qualifications

District of Columbia

- Transportation, Rail (for Railroads) (Nationwide), *Chambers USA*, 2015-2020
- Transportation and Maritime, *Washington, D.C. Super Lawyers*, 2014-2019
- Top 45 Regulatory & Compliance Trailblazers, *National Law Journal*, 2015

California

Minnesota

Latest thinking and events

- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - States ease overweight trucking regulations in response to COVID-19
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - DOT and PHMSA issue new enforcement policy regarding recurrent training requirements in response to COVID-19 *Transportation Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - DHS updates essential workforce guidance to cover transportation supply chain *Transportation Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - FMCSA issues first nationwide Emergency Declaration in response to COVID-19 outbreaks *Transportation Alert*
- Hogan Lovells Publications
 - PHMSA proposes new rule authorizing the transport of LNG by rail *Transportation Alert*
- Press Releases
 - Hogan Lovells boosts newly-formed global Transportation practice by hiring two prominent railroad partners