



William J. Estes

Of Counsel

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William J. Estes is Of Counsel with Pannone Lopes Devereaux & O'Gara LLC with a primary concentration on the procurement, construction and financing of infrastructure for the transportation, water and energy sectors. He has vast experience in working closely with federal and state agencies, public authorities and local governments on legal matters arising out of the maintenance and operation of tolled roadways, waterways and municipal facilities.

From 2009 until 2015, Mr. Estes was General Counsel to the New York State Thruway Authority and Canal Corporation, among the nation's longest and busiest tolled roadways and oldest canal systems. In this position, he advised on legal issues regarding construction, litigation, procurement, finance, real property, permitting, contracting, advertising, labor and employment, environmental, and governance matters. During his tenure with the Authority, he participated in the \$3.9 billion design-build procurement and financing of the replacement Tappan Zee Bridge; pursued claims involving the authority-owned fiber-optic system and cell tower portfolio; negotiated disputes with travel plaza concessionaires; and, advised on water rights pertaining to hydropower projects, a water authority and a private developer. In 2014, the New York Law Journal recognized his leadership with an "Outstanding Legal Department" award.

Prior to his work with the Authority, Mr. Estes was Assistant Counsel to the Governor of New York under two administrations. In this role, he advised on transportation, infrastructure, construction, economic development, public finance, and housing issues, and he was the primary legal liaison between agency general counsels and municipal attorneys throughout the State of New York in his practice areas. He also drafted and negotiated laws, Executive Orders, regulations, and sections of the State's \$120 billion budget.

Earlier in his career, Mr. Estes served as Senior Counsel at the United States Securities and Exchange Commission and as Special Assistant United States Attorney in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York. He began his career as an Assistant Attorney General in the New York State Office of the Attorney General.

Mr. Estes earned his J.D. from the Emory University School of Law and his B.A. in English from Northwestern University. He is admitted to practice law in the states of New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and the United States District Courts in the Southern District of New York, the Eastern District of New York and the District of New Jersey. He is a member of the New York City Bar Association and its Transportation and Construction Law committees.

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