

Jeremy S. Steckel

Partner



contact

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Clients come to me because I'm a great listener and I care about their goals as if they were my own. Drawing on my experience as a corporate finance lawyer at a large global law firm before pivoting to nonprofit law, I now apply these skills and standards of excellence to help nonprofits make a positive impact in their communities and around the world. I'm particularly interested in innovative philanthropy and collaboration among the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

Jeremy Steckel represents public charities and private foundations (501c3s), social welfare organizations (501c4s), professional associations and business leagues (501c6s), and other tax-exempt organizations on corporate, compliance, and governance matters. His public charity clients provide social services, and conduct or support scientific, educational and medical research, sustainable agriculture, environmental protection, international development and relief efforts, safe and affordable housing, public health, arts and culture, and religious activities; his private grantmaking foundation clients, which include family and corporate foundations, fund similar activities by making grants, program-related and impact investments in the U.S. and abroad; and his operating foundation clients include artist-established foundations educating the public about the work of a particular artist or school of artists.

For clients looking to establish new nonprofits, Jeremy guides them through the incorporation and startup process, providing them with state-of-the-art bylaws,

conflict of interest and other key policies, and obtains recognition from the IRS of federal 501(c) tax-exempt status, all with a focus on setting clients up for success right from the start. Jeremy also advises existing nonprofits on corporate governance, board fiduciary duties, internal investigations, excess benefit transactions, self-dealing, charitable solicitation, charitable giving, fiscal sponsorship, program-related investments, impact investing and other innovative philanthropy, joint ventures, relationships with other not-for-profit and for-profit entities, commercial contracts, structural changes, mergers, asset sales, and dissolutions.

Prior to joining Carter Ledyard, Jeremy was a Senior Fellow and Supervising Attorney for a law clinic at NYU School of Law, where he supervised teams of law students advising nonprofits and for-profit social enterprises.

Earlier in his career, Jeremy was a Senior Associate in the Securities practice at Milbank LLP, where he represented investment banks, governments, and corporations in domestic and international securities transactions. He regularly worked on bond offerings issued or guaranteed by governmental entities, including advising Export Development Canada on its issuance of one of the first SEC-registered “green bonds” to finance environmental remediation initiatives, and advising airlines and underwriters on the issuance of U.S. government guaranteed bonds to finance the purchase of Boeing aircraft. Jeremy’s nonprofit clients appreciate his deep knowledge of finance, investment, and contract principles as they address their own financial needs and build organizational capabilities to better fulfill their missions.

Experience

- Negotiated PRI loan from a large international foundation to finance client’s purchase and distribution of free or low-cost nasal naloxone to harm-reduction groups in order to reduce opioid overdoses.
- Assisted educational charity with strategic “acquisition” of another mission-aligned charity in financial hardship by taking majority board control and establishment of a sole member structure.
- Serve as outside general counsel to an online educational magazine, facilitating board meetings, negotiating contracts, and advising on corporate and compliance matters.
- Advised a group of nationally-recognized litigators on the formation of a new 501(c)(3) public interest law firm to litigate constitutional cases to support principles of democracy and the rule of law.
- Serve as outside general counsel to a NYC-based social services agency committed to addressing issues of homelessness and domestic violence, advising on a broad range of corporate, real estate, insurance, employment, compliance and tax matters.
- Guided an organization dedicated to spiritual education through process of obtaining the approval of the New York State Attorney General on the sale of its headquarters – and the purchase of a new, more suitable headquarters – on an expedited timeframe.
- Obtained approval of New York State Attorney General for three separate sales of real property by a public charity with over 300 members. Advised charity’s investment committee on managing sale proceeds in compliance with New York Prudent Management of Institutional Funds Act (NYPMIFA), and negotiated contracts with investment advisors.
- Advised a charity serving as fiscal sponsor for an alliance of Kenyan companies and community-based organizations formed to fight COVID-19 by deploying free soap, handwashing stations and masks to the most vulnerable Kenyans.
- Advised a group of private foundations, each run by a different family member, on compliance with state and federal law, including annual excise tax, self-dealing, minimum distribution, excess business holdings, and taxable expenditure rules.
- Counseled a 100-year old charity providing direct services to young people on options for restructuring the organization to better align with its current programs and address challenges.
- Guided a group of scientists and educators who maintain a blog to debunk arguments of global warming skeptics on forming a new charity to continue this activity and more easily fund it via grants and tax-deductible donations.
- Drafted or amended governance documents for several private foundations and public charities, providing them with state-of-the-art bylaws, committee charters, and conflict of interest and whistleblower policies. Answer governance questions from directors, officers and staff on an ongoing basis.

- Advised a private foundation making foreign grants on IRS expenditure responsibility rules and Treasury Department anti-terrorist financing guidelines, and provided tax-code compliant grant agreements.
- Advised a trade association on cybersecurity and data privacy matters, including updating its website, policies and practices to comply with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).
- Dissolved several New York and Delaware nonprofit organizations.

Publications

- [Nonprofit Boards and Bylaws](#), *Featured Series*, 2022-2023.
- [Governor Hochul Signs Bill Repealing Burdensome Filing Requirements for Nonprofits](#), *Client Advisory*, November 2021.
- [New Act Simplifies Excise Tax on Investment Income for Private Foundations](#), *Client Advisory*, January 2020.
- [Cybersecurity and Privacy Risks for Nonprofits: Navigating the Minefield](#), *Pratt's Privacy & Cybersecurity Law Report*, LexisNexis A.S. Pratt, July 2019.
- [New Legal Requirements for New York Nonprofit Membership Corporations](#), *Client Advisory*, February 2019.
- [Balancing Public and Private Interests in Pay for Success Programs: Should We Care About the Private Benefit Doctrine?](#), *N.Y.U. J. L. & Bus.*, Spring 2018.
- [Tax Cuts and Jobs Act – Impact on Non-Profits](#), *Client Advisory*, January 2018.
- [Further Changes to New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law: 2015 and 2016 Amendments](#), *Client Advisory*, June 2017.
- [TEO Bulletin](#), *Featured Series*, 2019-2023.

Presentations

- "Boards & Bylaws: A presentation and Q&A about our [Nonprofit Boards & Bylaws](#) series, co-authored with Plan A Advisors" (September 2023)
- "Back to Basics: Key Issues in Nonprofit Practice"- March 2023 (featured speaker), NYC Bar Association's 10th Annual not-for-profit law institute.
- "Advising Nonprofits 2022 – Nonprofit Dissolutions and Mergers," *Practising Law Institute*. [Click to view Slide Deck](#).
- "Nonprofit Boards: Tough Decisions in Tough Times," March 2021 (co-panelist for discussion of governance and fiduciary duties, cybersecurity and data privacy, investment strategy and financial stewardship, hosted by Glenmede Trust Company).
- "Advising Nonprofit Organizations 2018 – Balancing Public and Private Interests in Pay for Success Programs," *Practising Law Institute*.

Outside the Office

Outside of the office, I enjoy running, meditation, seeing live music, finding new restaurants, and cramming to finish books in time for book club. I studied jazz guitar at the University of New Orleans before becoming a lawyer and continue to play music whenever I can.

Practices

Tax-Exempt Organizations
Tax-Exempt Organizations Real Estate

Admissions

Bar Admissions
New York

Affiliations

Member, Nonprofit New York, Government Relations Council
Secretary, Non-Profit Organizations Committee of The New York City Bar Association (2019-2022)
Member, Exempt Organizations Committee of the American Bar Association

Education

American University, Washington College of Law (JD, 2008)

Tulane University (BA, 2000)

Awards/Honors

Super Lawyers® – “Rising Star,” 2018-2019