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Housing Development

MEET THE TEAM



Jeffrey D. Harris
614 227 4860

jharris@brickergraydon.com

Bricker Graydon is the leading law firm providing counsel to public sector clients in its markets. The firm's unique knowledge of the public sector, gained over decades of experience serving as legal counsel to states, school districts, cities, townships, and counties, creates a foundation for thought leadership that is respected and assigned high value in the market.

Bricker Graydon attorney **Jeffrey Harris** is helping to lead the firm's efforts to guide clients in the use of public incentives and finance tools for housing rehabilitation and construction.

Jeffrey has been a public incentives practitioner since his first job out of school, having helped administer government-issued tax credits and abatements; he now advises his law clients in that space. And Jeffrey's deep knowledge of Ohio's public incentives and finance tools are directly applicable to housing development projects – Ohio's policy makers are turning to new versions of tried-and-tested economic development tools to drive residential construction.

He is one of two partners at the firm, with Jackie Lewis, leading a cross-disciplinary group of practitioners in developing client-focused solutions and how-to guidebook materials for general audiences in the area of housing incentives and financing.

Jeffrey frequently is asked to speak publicly to large audiences – both in-person and via webinar, within Ohio and nationally – as to using public finance tools for development projects, including affordable housing and market-rate housing opportunities. During and after the COVID-19 pandemic, Jeffrey was a recognized thought leader in the use of American Rescue Plan Act federal stimulus funds for affordable housing development. He has pivoted that hard-earned knowledge of federal funding for affordable housing to co-lead Bricker Graydon's efforts in advising clients in the use of public finance tools for all types of residential development.



Jacquelin R. Lewis
614 227 7735
jlewis@brickergraydon.com

Jacquelin (“Jackie”) Lewis is a partner at Bricker Graydon who practices in the areas of public finance, public law, and economic development with an emphasis on housing and tax incentives in connection with development projects.

Jackie helps to lead the firm’s housing development practice through her advice and counsel to developer clients in the use of public incentives and finance tools in connection with housing rehabilitation and construction.

Jackie brings to the housing and development practice 10 years of transactional experience in municipal bond financing where she has advised and counseled political subdivisions on financing options for capital infrastructure projects, as well as, experience in implementing public incentives in connection with mixed-used and residential development projects. Additionally, prior to joining the firm, Jackie worked for eight years in a number of different government relations roles, enabling her to understand the framework of governmental systems. This knowledge she brings to her representation of developer clients to better serve them as they consider various incentives.

Jackie has worked on mixed-use development projects that contained a residential component and is currently engaged in several residential only developments. Jackie is working on both market rate and mixed-income residential developments.

Jackie is one of two partners at the firm, with Jeffry D. Harris, leading a cross-disciplinary group of practitioners in developing client-focused solutions and how-to guidebook materials for general audiences in the area of housing incentives and financing.

Jackie has been actively engaged in the housing conversation in various parts of Ohio, in part through her civic service on boards such as The Affordable Housing Trust for Columbus and Franklin County and the Columbus Metropolitan Housing Authority. Jackie has been involved at the ground level in the study and tracking of emerging programs like The Ohio housing finance agency’s Single Family Housing Tax Credit and has migrated her knowledge of economic development incentives and municipal bond financing to co-lead Bricker Graydon’s housing development practice. Jackie regularly participates in housing-related presentations and webinars across Ohio advising and counseling communities and developers on the use of economic development incentives and programs for all types of residential development.

Jackie foresees housing as Ohio’s next big wave, similar to the shale boom back in 2013. Communities across Ohio are grappling with the challenges of insufficient and unaffordable housing of all types. Because of Bricker Graydon’s long-standing public sector and economic development practices, the firm is uniquely situated to serve as a liaison between communities and developers to help these groups work together to solve the housing crisis.



Mike Jacoby, CEcD
614 227 2353
mjacoby@brickergraydon.com

Mike Jacoby is a seasoned economic development professional with 30 years of experience in the field. He has worked at the state, local, and regional levels. Mike excels in helping clients with economic development, community development and housing projects, including needs analysis, planning, consensus building, educating stakeholders, project structuring, program applications, grant writing, and contracted services to support and strengthen client teams.

At Mike’s previous role he led the Ohio Southeast Economic Development (OhioSE) team in supporting companies in a 25-county region of over 1 million in population. Under Mike’s leadership, the team successfully undertook expansion and attraction projects that created over 5,800 jobs. Additionally, he worked closely with JobsOhio, the state’s private economic development corporation, as the JobsOhio Network Partner for southern and eastern Ohio. He actively engaged with business, government, and economic development leaders across the region and the state, representing southeastern Ohio and leading site development, workforce, and planning initiatives.



Brendan Heil
216 523 5467
bheil@brickergraydon.com

Mike specializes in creative problem-solving to get deals done, grant writing, communications, marketing, real estate development, incentives, and team building. His ability to build consensus while balancing the interests of multiple constituencies has proven his prowess as a first-class leader in his field.

Brendan Heil is an attorney at Bricker Graydon working in the firm's housing practice helping to advise and counsel clients on the best economic development and financing tools for housing development. As a member of Bricker Graydon's economic development and political subdivision groups, Brendan regularly represents communities that have housing needs. Additionally, as part of his representation of developers and municipalities, Brendan is well versed in the land use, zoning, planning, and financing required to get housing projects across the finish line.

Brendan has represented numerous developers on multi-family, mixed-use, and single family housing projects. Brendan has also represented local governments regarding public incentives for mixed-used, commercial, and housing development projects in their jurisdictions. He has presented on land use and zoning to the American Planning Association on best zoning practices regarding housing development. Brendan also routinely presents to public and private economic development professionals regarding financing and incentive programs available for housing development.

Brendan believes that Bricker Graydon's approach to housing development is unique because of the understanding that there isn't a one size fits all approach to housing.

Brendan believes that each community's housing needs are different, each development project is different, and therefore, meeting the housing needs of a community must be about collaboration. He believes Bricker Graydon is uniquely positioned to address housing challenges because of its collaborative model that tailors specific tools to the specific needs of a project, all while understanding the unique nature of each community in which the work is being performed.

Brendan is proud to work alongside the Bricker Graydon Housing Development team members to help with housing development across all of Ohio. No matter the type of project or the size of the community, he enjoys working with developers to ensure a successful project that fits the desires of the community in which new residents will be living.



Tyler J. Bridge
614 227 4827
tbridge@brickergraydon.com

Tyler Bridge is helping to support Bricker Graydon's efforts to guide clients in the use of public incentives and finance tools for housing rehabilitation and construction. Tyler knew he wanted to become a public incentives practitioner while growing up in the great City of Hamilton, Ohio. As paper mills that stood for over 100 years closed, and other industry shuttered, he believed that a brighter economic future was possible for his hometown and places like it across Ohio. Tyler's passion for Ohio's public incentives and finance tools are directly applicable to housing development projects—particularly in legacy cities like Tyler's hometown.

Tyler is one of several Associate Attorneys at the firm supporting a cross-disciplinary group of practitioners in developing client-focused solutions and how-to guidebook materials for general audiences in the area of housing incentives and financing.

Tyler passionately supports Bricker Graydon's efforts to make public finance tools understandable to public clients across Ohio. From Community Reinvestment Areas (CRAs), Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, to Tax Increment Financing (TIF), and other local incentive programs, Tyler has actively supported Bricker Graydon's service to public sector clients across Ohio, often with respect to the new construction of single-family homes, multi-family apartment communities, and other high-impact rehabilitation projects in both rural and urban settings.

Tyler believes Bricker Graydon attorneys and staff care about the communities it serves because they also live, work, and play in those communities. Bricker Graydon provides the power of local representation with the added benefits of a full-service law firm able to tackle the ins and outs of economic development issues that arise in any complicated project.

The mission of Bricker Graydon's Public Finance Group is simple—to "move Ohio forward." Tyler foresees housing development finance as a critical need in powering Ohio's economy forward over the next several decades. Bricker Graydon is well-positioned to enable public sector clients to lay the foundation for successful economic development strategies grounded in housing and in support of the commercial and industrial growth that follows.



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