



John Caleb Bell, CRE®

PARTNER

Contact John Caleb

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Admissions

State of Ohio

Commonwealth of Kentucky

Commonwealth of
Pennsylvania

State of Michigan

Industries & Practices

Economic Development

Regulatory Compliance Law

Taxation

Public Finance

Public Sector

Bond Finance

Manufacturing

Northwest Ohio

Port Authorities &
Development Finance
Agencies

State & Local Tax (SALT)

Energy

Caleb Bell is chair of Bricker Graydon Wyatt's Public Finance practice group with a regional practice that emphasizes public finance and economic development matters.

Overview

He has served as bond counsel in a wide variety of transactions. His clients include municipalities, counties, townships, school districts, and public universities, as well as private developers and property owners across Ohio, Kentucky, and the Midwest. Caleb is well known for his representation of special purpose financing entities such as port authorities, new community authorities (NCAs), special improvement districts (SIDs), energy special improvement districts (ESIDs), and energy project assessment districts (EPADs).

Caleb has diverse economic development experience and is sought after for his knowledge of development tools such as tax increment financing (TIF), special assessments, community redevelopment area (CRA) abatements, enterprise zone (EZ) abatements, joint economic development districts (JEDD), and local tax credits.

Caleb has been instrumental in advancing energy financing across the Midwest. He is a national thought leader in Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing. He is a Board Member of PACENation, a member of the C-PACE Alliance, and has been appointed by the U.S. Department of Energy as a C-PACE Advisor. He was retained by clients to author Ohio's PACE financing statute, he served as bond counsel for Ohio's first issue of PACE-secured bonds, and he has financed over \$1B of PACE financing for over 200 PACE projects. Caleb has structured PACE financing into a variety of transactions, including retrofit projects, new construction projects, redevelopment projects, and tax credit projects in the Ohio, Kentucky, Michigan, and Tennessee markets. In addition, he advised the State of Hawaii on its commercial PACE legislation, which was enacted into law in 2022.

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Education

Georgetown University Law Center (J.D., *cum laude*), 2007

Otterbein College (B.S., economics and political science, *magna cum laude with honors*), 2004

Distinctions

PACE Champion of the Year, *PACENation* (2023)

Listed, *Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers - Public Finance Law* (2025)

Member, Counselors of Real Estate (CRE)

Listed, *The Best Lawyers in America® - Economic Development Law* (2025-2026)

Rising Star, *Super Lawyers®*, part of *Thomson Reuters® - Ohio, Government Finance* (2014-2023)

Best Negotiator, *Georgetown Law* (2005)

Professional Affiliations

Trustee, Otterbein College Board of Trustees, 2002 - 2004

White House Intern, 2001

Member, PACENation Board of Directors

Member, C-PACE Alliance

Member, CDFA Ohio Financing Roundtable

Member, Ohio Economic Development Association

Member, National Association of Bond Lawyers

Caleb has served as bond counsel and underwriters' counsel in more than \$4 billion of natural gas and electricity prepayment bonds, including Ohio's only tax-exempt refunding of energy prepayment bonds.

Caleb is an experienced negotiator, regularly advising his clients on complex projects involving multiple aspects of public finance and economic development law. He advises both public entities and private developers, and he brings a broad-based perspective to every transaction.

For additional ways to contact Caleb Bell, you can reach his assistant Ashley Tarbet at 614.227.4964 or by email.

Visit Bricker's PACE Financing Resource Center

Experience

Honda-LG Energy Solution \$3.5 billion battery plant (under construction in Fayette County, Ohio)

L Brands Beauty Park campus in New Albany, Ohio

Royal Canin pet food manufacturing facility in Preble County, Ohio

\$180 million mixed-use development project

Conversion of a former munitions factory

News

[FIRM NEWS | 10.20.2025](#)

Bricker Graydon Attorneys Recognized in Columbus CEO's Top Lawyers of 2025

[FIRM NEWS | 10.31.2024](#)

Bricker Graydon Attorneys Recognized in *Columbus CEO's* Top Lawyers of 2024

[FIRM NEWS | 11.15.2023](#)

Bricker Graydon IRA Resource Center Now Updated

[FIRM NEWS | 10.17.2023](#)

Bricker Graydon Earns #1 Spot in Ohio Public Finance Rankings

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[FIRM NEWS](#) | 08.17.2023

Bricker Graydon Attorneys Recognized for 2024 “Best Lawyers” Excellence

Resource Centers

Kentucky Resource Center
Megaproject
Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)
DevelopOhio
PACE Financing

Blog Posts

[DEVELOPOHIO](#) | 02.16.2026

Preparing for Ohio’s March 31 Local Tax Incentive Filing: Compliance Essentials

[DEVELOPOHIO](#) | 02.20.2024

New Morrow County Engineering Facility Will Have Huge Impact

[DEVELOPOHIO](#) | 10.17.2023

Bricker Graydon Earns #1 Spot in Ohio Public Finance Rankings

[DEVELOPOHIO](#) | 03.02.2023

Local government incentives available under Inflation Reduction Act

[DEVELOPOHIO](#) | 02.16.2023

New Community Authority could provide money for new development in Mount Vernon

Speaking Engagements

[EVENT](#) | 03.01.2024

Bricker Graydon | HORAN Wealth March Bridge Series

[WEBINAR](#) | 01.12.2021

Webinar: PACE Market Update | 2020 Review & 2021 Forecast

[WEBINAR](#) | 06.18.2020

Webinar: Development of Utility Scale Solar Projects in Ohio

[WEBINAR](#) | 05.05.2020

Virtual Energy Exchange

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[WEBINAR | 04.13.2020](#)

Webinar: Turning Debt into Cash – Refinancing with PACE

Publications

[ARTICLE | 02.16.2026](#)

Ohio's Local Tax Incentive Reporting Due March 31 – Compliance Basics for Communities

[ALERT | 04.29.2025](#)

Economic Development Impact of Proposed HB 96 Cap on General Fund Carryover Balances

[ARTICLE | 04.17.2025](#)

New Tool Aims to Ease Kentucky's Housing Shortage

[EXTERNAL PUBLICATION | 10.15.2024](#)

New Community Authorities: An Underutilized Tool for Transformative Real Estate Projects

[ARTICLE | 08.22.2023](#)

Intensive Care for Hospital Finances: Economic Development Tools

Additional Items

- Co-Speaker, "When Good Deals Go Bad - Remedies in Public Finance," Ohio Council of Port Authorities (December 2025)
- Co-Speaker, "Data Centers Part 1: Holistic Approaches," Ohio Economic Development Association Annual Summit (October 2025)
- Co-Speaker, "Managing and Closing Complex PACE Deals," PACENation Annual Summit, PACENation (May 2025)
- Co-Speaker, "PACE Financing: Overview, Trends, and Case Studies," NOAED PACE 101, Northeast Ohio Advanced Energy District (September 2024)
- Co-Speaker, "EPAD/PACE Program Breakout Session," KAED Conference (April 2024)
- Co-Speaker, "Turning Debt Into Cash - Refinancing with PACE" (April 2020)
- Co-Speaker, "PACE Financing in Ohio," Ohio Hospital Association Annual Meeting, Ohio Hospital Association (June 2019)

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- Co-Speaker, "PACE Financing in Ohio," Ohio CCIM Chapter Event, The CCIM Institute Ohio Chapter (August 2017)

