

Nonprofit & Social Enterprise

We are intimately familiar with and sensitive to the unique and often complex corporate, tax and financial issues faced by nonprofit organizations and the unique mission-driven outlook that is fundamental to social enterprises, nonprofits, social impact investors, hybrid nonprofit/for-profit organizations and donors.

Our clients include scientific research institutes, educational institutions, private foundations, family offices, trade associations, healthcare providers, health insurance companies, environmental organizations, animal advocacy organizations, social justice organizations, affordable housing developers, museums and arts institutions, pension funds and other nonprofit organizations.

Our Services

Our multidisciplinary team handles a wide range of legal needs for tax-exempt, nonprofit and social enterprise clients of all sizes, including corporate, commercial, litigation, tax, intellectual property (IP), employment, environmental, data privacy and security, finance and real estate.

We assist our clients in obtaining and maintaining tax-exempt status, and provide advice on engaging in commercial activity, organizing for-profit operations, spinning out IP to be developed and commercialized, joint ventures with for-profit businesses, unrelated business taxable income and tax-exempt financing. We also represent tax-exempt clients in audits by the Internal Revenue Service and state and local taxing authorities, and advise them on state and local charitable registration and reporting requirements and compliance issues.

Our team has substantial experience in a wide variety of cutting-edge social enterprise, social impact and venture philanthropy structures, new hybrid LLC/foundation models, program-related investments (PRIs), mission-related investments (MRIs), technology transfer from nonprofit institutions to startup ventures, and government relations.

Our litigation team brings broad experience to the representation of tax-exempt clients who face a variety of legal challenges, from employment issues to intellectual property disputes to corporate governance challenges. In addition, we represent exempt clients in advocacy litigation, helping them to bring actions as plaintiffs to advance their missions, whether it be protecting the environment, assisting immigrants, or ensuring that state and local governments operate within the boundaries of the law.

Our attorneys have extensive experience advising exempt organizations on all aspects of development and planned giving, including the preparation of gift acceptance, endowment and conflict of interest policies. Our attorneys also represent charitable organizations with respect to the receipt and structuring of significant gifts, including charitable remainder, charitable lead trusts and gifts of real property.

For clients interested in a comprehensive and cost-effective assessment of their structure, assets and operations for purposes of identifying and managing risk to further their mission and maximize impact, we offer a “Nonprofit Health Checkup.” The checkup is designed to empower nonprofits to understand and prioritize risk-management tasks across the organization, and in many cases, we can offer this service on a very affordable flat-fee basis.

Experience

Habitat for Humanity Merger of Local Affiliates Into Habitat for Humanity Seattle-King County

Counsel in the merger of Habitat for Humanity affiliates East King County and Seattle/South King County into a single affiliate serving all of King County.

HealthLink Formation of Legacy Health System With Good Samaritan Corporation

Advised HealthLink and its affiliates in a combination transaction with Good Samaritan Corporation, resulting in the formation of Legacy Health System.

New Avenues for Youth Joint Venture to Build and Operate the Dorothy Lemelson House & New Meadows Program

Advised New Avenues for Youth, a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention and intervention of youth homelessness, on a joint venture to build and operate the Dorothy Lemelson House & New Meadows Program.

Salmon Innovation Fund Formation of Investment Fund

Advised Salmon Innovation Fund in the formation of its investment fund, which invests in scalable, early-stage technologies that increase wild Pacific salmon & steelhead populations and resilience.

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