

John R. Schmidt

Partner

Mayer Brown LLP

John Schmidt concentrates his practice on mergers and acquisitions and other large-scale transactions, governmental matters, and litigation.

In recent years his practice has focused heavily on public private partnerships involving the acquisition, maintenance, and development of transportation infrastructure in the US. He was counsel to the City of Chicago in the privatization of the Chicago Skyway Toll Bridge for \$1.83 billion, the first privatization of an American toll road or toll bridge, and was named “Dealmaker of the Year” by the American Lawyer for his work on that transaction. More recently, he has represented the State of Indiana in the \$3.8 billion privatization of the Indiana Toll Road. He is now representing states and local government entities in a variety of other privatization initiatives, including the City of Chicago's proposed privatization of Midway Airport, the first major airport privatization, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in the proposed lease of the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

A nationally recognized attorney, John was named by the American Lawyer as one of the 27 “All-Stars of the ‘90s” of the American bar and by the National Law Journal as one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America.

Prior to joining Mayer Brown, John served as Associate Attorney General in the United States Department of Justice (1994-1997) overseeing all aspects of the civil representation of the federal government and the work of the Civil Rights, Antitrust, Tax, and Environmental Divisions, as well as implementation of the 1994 Crime Bill, including the new COPS (community policing) program. He was a recipient of the Edmund J. Randolph Award for Outstanding Service to the United States Department of Justice (1997). Prior to becoming Associate Attorney General, he served as Ambassador and Chief US Negotiator for the Uruguay Round of world trade talks under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) (1993-1994), which concluded the largest and most comprehensive trade agreement in world history in April 1994.

Education

Harvard Law School, JD, cum laude, 1967; Editor, Harvard Law Review

Harvard College, BA, magna cum laude, 1964