What's the Risk? Considerations in Drafting Risk Factor Disclosures

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Legal Requirements and Considerations for Inclusion of Risk Factors in Offering Documents

- History and Regulation S-K model
- Antifraud provisions
- Facts and materiality
- Misleading omissions
- Bespeaks Caution



Practical Considerations

- From an underwriter and municipal advisor perspective
 - Disclosure Requirements and duty to review
 - Due diligence records and adequate records of compliance
 - Regulation Best Interest
 - Reasonable basis/suitability analysis
 - Disclosure to customers
 - Fair dealing obligation
 - Municipal advisor role



Practical Considerations

- From a deal team perspective
 - Identifying and assessing risk factors
 - Materiality
 - How and where to disclose risks
 - Primary market disclosure vs secondary market disclosure



Practical Considerations

- Developing written policies and procedures
 - Process for identifying, evaluating and disclosing risk factors
 - Primary and secondary market disclosure
 - Reduces changes of material misstatement or misleading omission and helps establish a defense of reasonable care for any misstatements and omissions that may still occur



Notable Examples

- Climate change and cybersecurity risks
- Rapidly evolving public health risks
- Sector specific examples





Disclosing Risk Factors in Municipal Securities Offerings is available at:

https://www.nabl.org/wpcontent/uploads/2023/07/20230 711-NABL-Risk-Factors-Paper.pdf



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