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What Next for Puerto Rican Debt? Legal Implications of Court Rulings and Hurricane Maria

Speaker Bios

Joe Mysak has been covering the municipal market since January of 1981, when he was hired at The Daily Bond Buyer. He served as copy editor, reporter, assistant managing editor, managing editor, editor, and editor and publisher. In 1994 he joined the Interest Rate Publishing Co. to put out the fortnightly Grant's Municipal Bond Observer. In 1999, he joined Bloomberg News. He is currently the editor of the daily Bloomberg Brief, "Municipal Market." He is the author of, among other titles, the "Handbook for Muni-Bond Issuers" (1998) and "The Encyclopedia of Municipal Bonds" (2012). He has been an annual speaker at the Bond Attorneys Winter Workshop since 1994.

Kent Hiteshew has spent his entire career delivering public finance solutions to both state and local governments and federal policy makers. He spent nearly 30 years on Wall Street in the municipal bond industry where he raised billions of capital for public infrastructure and affordable housing, most recently at JP Morgan Securities. In early 2014, he was asked by the Secretary of the US Treasury to establish a new policy office designed to inform senior officials at Treasury and the White House concerning state and local finance issues, including the municipal bond market, infrastructure finance, public pensions and fiscal distress. In this position he managed Treasury's response to the fiscal and economic crisis in Puerto Rico, including day-to-day crisis management, development of four-pronged policy response and legislative proposal, Congressional negotiations which led to adoption of PROMESA and appointment of and technical assistance to the Oversight Board members. In addition, he staffed the Treasury Secretary's role as Co-Chair of President Obama's Build America Infrastructure Task Force to promote federal policies to encourage greater private investment in public infrastructure. He also led bi-lateral discussions with Ministry of Finance officials of the government of China about the foundations and practices of the U.S. municipal bond market.

Today Kent is a Senior Fellow at New York University's Marron Institute and a Strategic Advisor to Ernst & Young's municipal restructuring and infrastructure advisory practices.

John E. Mudd is an attorney and legal analyst admitted to the practice of law in Puerto Rico, the P.R. Federal District Court, the First and Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals. He received his Juris Doctor from the University of Puerto Rico Law School in 1982. He also holds a Masters Degree from Boston University in International Relations focusing in Middle Eastern Studies. He started his litigation career as an attorney in the federal division for the PR Department of Justice. After that, he worked for many years for Ortiz Toro-Ortiz Brunet where he participated in some of the most high profile cases in PR, including the Dupont Plaza Litigation, Rio Piedras Explosion, Tobacco Litigation (lead counsel) and the Airplane Crash in Cali, Colombia. Now a solo practitioner for more than ten years, Mr. Mudd specializes in Class Actions, Bankruptcy, Constitutional Law, Mass tort litigation and Intricate Issues of Federal Jurisdiction. He also gives seminars for continued legal education.

In the past 4 years, Mr. Mudd has studied, discussed and written on the Puerto Rico Debt crisis from both a financial and legal points of view. He was the first analyst in the island to raise the probability of a Congressional imposed Financial Control Board on this blog and on El Azote de Luis Davila Colon on WKAQ 580 am radio.