



Steve Tugend

Director + Chair, Government Affairs Practice

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Tugend chairs the firm's government affairs legal practice where he zealously lobbies at the federal, state and local level for his clients. During his tenure at the firm, he has successfully lobbied for decreased regulation on manufacturers, fought to preserve the ability of Transportation Improvement Districts (TIDs) to efficiently advance economic development projects and has brought clients' priorities to Washington, D.C., securing legislative support. Recently, Tugend was appointed by Ohio House Speaker Cliff Rosenberger to be a member of his Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and Military Affairs Task Force.

Government Affairs

Tugend has over 25 years of experience in legal, legislative and political matters. He counsels clients on complex transportation projects, advising TIDs, local governments and private sector partners on project-related issues. He serves as the face of the relationship at the state and federal levels for numerous TIDs and has helped local officials in multiple congressional districts within the same corridor build the necessary coalitions to support public policy projects.

Tugend has led efforts for local governments and statewide associations seeking funding, successfully amending the state operating budget to divert federal funds for clients' activities. He also served as a part of a campaign team that secured voter approval for a transit tax levy.

Currently a member of Ohio's BRAC and Military Affairs Task Force, Tugend has long been an advocate of state defense institutions, previously taking a team of community leaders to Washington, D.C., to advocate the expansion of a military base, which ultimately grew by more than 2,000 jobs.

Tugend has advocated for businesses even before joining Kegler Brown. He previously served for six years as vice president of government relations for the Columbus Chamber, where he was the voice of the business community in public policy matters. He continues to break down barriers to doing business with government and stop legislation that would make the state a less friendly place to do business. He was the architect of a strategy to win a pending lawsuit through an intervening change to the law at issue. He has also lobbied to preserve a restaurant chain's sweepstakes promotion.

On the political front, Tugend is no novice. He managed a candidate's statewide race, founded a corporate political action committee and has afforded political advice to a wide variety of candidates. He has also served on the transition team for a member of Congress.

Recent Work Highlights

- + Successfully Lobbied for Public Housing Reforms
- + Uniting a New Organization around Common Policy Objectives
- + Formulating a Legislative Action Plan for the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC)
- + Fast-Track Interchange for Clermont County TID

Professional Affiliations

- + Columbus Bar Association, member
- + Ohio State Bar Association, member
- + Columbus International Visitor's Council, (2005-2008)
- + Leadership Columbus, Class of 2010
- + Capital Crossroads Special Improvement District, board member (2004-2008)
- + Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Policy Roundtable (2006-2011), Transportation Advisory Council (2004-2011)

Charitable + Civic Involvement

- + Ohio BRAC and Military Affairs Task Force, member (2017)
- + Columbus 2020 Central Ohio Defense Group, external coordinator
- + COTA Levy Advisory Committee, member (2013-2014)
- + United Way of Central Ohio, Public Policy Committee, member (2005-2013)
- + Christ Lutheran Church, Congregation President (2006-2007)

Bar Admissions

- + Ohio

Education

- + The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law (J.D., 1991)
- + Wittenberg University (B.A., 1988)

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