

## Services

### Government Relations

#### Practice Contact

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#### Attorneys

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Thomas E. Niehaus

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Anthony L. Osterlund

D. Scott Powell

Elizabeth T. Smith

Anthony Spina

Frederick P. Waite

Victor A. Walton, Jr.

Kimberly R. Young

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#### Areas Of Concentration

Alcohol Beverage Law

More than 20 of our lawyers have direct professional experience in problem solving before local, state and federal departments and agencies. We offer our clients representation before Congress and federal departments, agencies, and commissions; the Ohio and Texas legislative bodies; and county commissions and city councils across the country. We also provide representation before international institutions, from United Nations agencies to regional development banks, foreign governments' ministries and their and our embassies. We work on a bipartisan basis to ensure that our client's interests are known and respected by elected and appointed officials of all parties. Our goal is to help our clients achieve their objectives as promptly and efficiently as possible.

Vorys lawyers are supported in their Ohio state and local government relations efforts by the team at Vorys Advisors. Vorys Advisors, a wholly owned subsidiary of the law firm, provides government relations and strategic counsel to Ohio businesses. As former legislators, Vorys Advisors Principals Tom Niehaus and Lou Gentile, know firsthand how government works and use that knowledge to help clients craft effective strategies to support, oppose or amend legislation. Other Vorys Advisors principals have vast experience advising Ohio, regional, and national clients on legislative matters and governmental relations.

The types of clients our team represents include:

- Fortune 500 companies
- Trade associations and business alliances
- Construction companies
- Financial institutions
- Health care entities
- Nonprofit organizations
- Private businesses

Our team has assisted clients in devising and drafting proposed legislation, ordinances, and amendments, and in preparing testimony and other submissions offered by clients, sponsors, witnesses, and advocates. We know the intricacies of parliamentary procedure and

help our clients develop proactive approaches to legislation that may impact their business functions. Our team is experienced in advocating our clients' positions to lawmakers, their staff, and potential supporters and/or coalition members. We also advise our clients on compliance with federal, state, and local ethics, and lobbying laws, rules and regulations.

### Ohio Government Relations

Our lawyers and other professionals have decades of state, county, and municipal government experience, including serving in government as elected officials, in-house counsel and advisors to public bodies. Through our long-term work in this area, we have developed unmatched credibility and strong bipartisan relationships with key decision-makers on all levels of Ohio government that help us to effectively advocate our clients' interests.

We regularly assist clients by providing legislative research, drafting proposed bills and amendments, facilitating meetings with legislators and other significant decision makers, preparing testimony, analyzing pending legislation, and monitoring legislative and local activities to ensure that our clients keep abreast of developments and have the opportunity to respond to those developments. When necessary, we offer hands-on representation before the Ohio General Assembly and Ohio administrative agencies.

Our experience includes:

- Providing strategic legislative counsel, including expert witness testimony and lobbying, to assist clients in the successful enactment of the first asbestos and silica tort reform legislation in the country
- Successfully representing Bob Evans Farms, the Ohio Council of Retail Merchants, and Worthington Industries in pursuing favorable tax reform legislation
- Drafting and successfully lobbying for Ohio's first civil and criminal SPAM statutes on behalf of major United States ISPs
- Implementing Ohio's minimum wage constitutional amendment
- Helping clients receive appropriations for water resource and development projects, international humanitarian and development projects
- Drafting environmental legislation for oil and gas companies, petroleum marketers, manufacturers, many municipalities and convenience stores
- Creating trade associations and coalitions to support various legislation

### Federal Government Relations

Our Washington, D.C.-based government relations attorneys use their experience with the U.S. Congress and the executive branch to assist our clients in their interactions with the federal government.

Businesses need access to federal agencies and officials to respond to fast-paced developments in our nation and the world, and to make their positions heard with respect to national policy and legislative and rulemaking initiatives that affect their goods, services and ideas. Our practice is geared toward assuring that our clients' voices are heard within a framework that emphasizes careful compliance with all applicable statutes and rules.

Our approach to federal government relations is proactive rather than reactive. We monitor legislative proposals to assure that clients have the earliest possible opportunities to assess the need for their involvement in the deliberative processes of the federal government. Our attorneys regularly meet with Senators, Representatives, and their staff, with legislative research services officials, and with others in order to advance our clients' positions.

We help our clients to identify and persuasively demonstrate problems with existing statutes and with pending legislation, and then we participate in the process of drafting bills and amendments designed to correct those problems. We build the cases for our clients' positions, highlight the data supporting those positions, and prepare testimony and other statements used in persuading members of Congress and other opinion leaders of the merit of those positions.

In addition, we regularly work with trade associations and public policy groups, other Washington offices, public relations firms, and lobbying coalitions to coordinate our clients' approach to legislative activity, expand support for that approach, and enhance the effectiveness of our clients' efforts.

### Economic Development Incentives

Our government relations team has assisted in the creation of policies and laws that encourage economic development.

Our experience includes:

- Drafting and providing expert testimony related to expanding Ohio's Community Improvement Corporation law to assist with economic development in Ohio
- Drafting or assisting in the drafting of nearly 20 statutory amendments related to economic development incentives

In addition, we frequently work with both public entities and private businesses to structure, secure, implement and maintain state and local economic development incentives in Ohio. To learn more about our economic development incentives work in Ohio and across the country, [click here](#).

### News

[News, 8.18.2022](#)

115 Vorys Attorneys Named to the 29th Edition of The Best Lawyers in America® List; 33 Vorys Attorneys Named to Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch in America List

[News, 7.11.2022](#)

Osterlund Selected to Serve as President of the Cincinnati Bar Foundation

[6.16.2022](#)

Vorys Professionals Receive Awards at the CMBA 2022 Annual Meeting

News, 11.4.2021

Vorys Receives 81 Tier One Rankings on 2022 U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 9.17.2021

Smith Featured on High Heels & Politics Podcast

News, 7.7.2021

Miller Quoted in Columbus Dispatch Article Titled "Elections Board Removes Overlay Petition From Fall Ballot"

News, 11.5.2020

Vorys Receives 68 Tier One Rankings on 2021 U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 3.27.2020

Cincione Quoted in *Columbus Dispatch* Story titled "What's an Essential Business in Coronavirus Pandemic? Turns out That's Complicated"

News, 12.9.2019

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 11.7.2019

Vorys Receives 66 Tier One Rankings on 2020 U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 8.15.2019

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2020 Best Lawyers in America® List

News, 3.31.2019

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 3.24.2019

Gentile Joins The Spectrum's "All Star Roundtable"

News, 10.28.2018

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 9.16.2018

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 8.15.2018

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2019 Best Lawyers in America® List

News, 7.9.2018

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 7.9.2018

Gentile Appears on the NBC4's The Spectrum

News, 5.30.2018

Gentile Appears on NBC4's The Spectrum

News, 4.9.2018

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 3.16.2018

Gentile Appears on The Spectrum

News, 10.31.2017

Vorys Receives 70 Tier One Rankings on 2018 U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 9.5.2017

Gentile Appears on 10TV's Face the State

News, 8.23.2017

Former Ohio State Senator Lou Gentile Joins Vorys Advisors

News, 2.6.2017

Vorys Advisors Hosts Successful Inaugural Energy Summit

News, 2.1.2017

Inaugural Energy Summit Highlighted in Recent News Stories

News, 11.1.2016

Vorys Receives 71 Tier One Rankings on 2017 U.S. News- Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 8.15.2016

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2017 The Best Lawyers in America® List

News, 11.2.2015

Vorys Receives 67 Tier One Rankings on 2016 U.S. News- Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 8.17.2015

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2016 The Best Lawyers in America® List

News, 3.17.2015

Mills Featured in Ohio Public Radio Story Titled "Committee Considers Term Limits Extension For November Ballot"

News, 11.3.2014

Vorys Receives 63 Tier One Rankings on 2015 U.S. News - Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 8.18.2014

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2015 The Best Lawyers in America® List

News, 7.11.2014

Mills Quoted in *Columbus Dispatch* Story Titled "Legislative, Congressional Redistricting Recommendation Could Come Soon"

News, 4.7.2014

Hoeffel Joins Vorys Advisors

News, 3.10.2014

Niehaus Inducted into Ohio Oil and Gas Association's Hall of Fame

News, 8.14.2013

More Than 100 Vorys Attorneys Named to 2014 *The Best Lawyers in America*® List

News, 5.3.2013

Mills Named Chair of OCMC Legislative Branch and Executive Branch Subcommittee

News, 2.15.2013

Ransier Selected to Serve on Franklin County Commissioners' Budget & Economic Advisory Panel

News, 12.17.2012

Vorys Attorneys Recognized as 2013 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

News, 11.1.2012

Vorys Receives 63 Tier One Rankings on 2013 *U.S. News - Best Lawyers* "Best Law Firms" List

News, 9.17.2012

Mills Selected to Serve on Ohio Constitutional Modernization Commission

News, 9.17.2012

Vorys Partners Participate in Business Roundtable with President Obama

News, 8.23.2012

126 Vorys Attorneys included in the 2013 *The Best Lawyers in America*® List

News, 1.17.2012

Hobson Featured in *Columbus Dispatch* Story on Policies Regarding Vacant and Abandoned Houses

News, 10.6.2011

Vorys Partner Randal Teague Discusses Ohio Economics and Job Creation Efforts in *Focus Washington* Interview

News, 9.6.2011

More than 100 Vorys Attorneys named on 2012 *The Best Lawyers in America*® List

News, 3.30.2011

Teague Discusses Ohio's Clout on Capitol Hill

News, 3.17.2011

72 Vorys Attorneys Recognized as 2011 Ohio Super Lawyers and Rising Stars

News, 9.17.2010

Vorys Ranks in 26 Categories in Inaugural U.S. News – Best Lawyers "Best Law Firms" List

News, 8.9.2010

Vorys Ranked #1 Law Firm in Ohio on 2011 *Best Lawyers in America*® list

News, 12.22.2009

Nine Vorys Attorneys Selected As 2010 Leading Lawyers By *Cincy Magazine*

News, 12.22.2009

20 Vorys Attorneys Named Ohio Rising Stars

News, 12.22.2009

54 Vorys Attorneys Recognized as 2010 Ohio Super Lawyers

News, 11.19.2009

Vorys Attorney Named "Lawyer of the Year" by Best Lawyers®

News, 11.3.2008

Teague and Kappel featured in *Legal Bisnow* article "Lobbying Report"

News, 10.21.2008

Vorys Assembles Interdisciplinary Financial Crisis Team

News, *National Journal.com*, 10.20.2008

Smith quoted in *National Journal.com* article "Changing Times Run into Static Election Laws"

News, *Columbus Dispatch*, 12.2.2007

Amron, Bresnahan and Kappel featured in *Columbus Dispatch* article "Local Firm's D.C. Lawyers Named Best in Washington"

News, 11.30.2007

Vorys Attorneys Among the Best in Washington

## Publications

Client alert, 11.4.2020

*Ohio Statehouse Update*: Ohio Election Summary 2020

Client alert, 10.8.2020

*Client Alert*: Political Contribution Limits Applicable to Federal and Ohio Elections

**Client alert, 3.21.2020**

DHS Issues Advisory “Memorandum on Identification of Essential Critical Infrastructure Workers During COVID-19 Response”

**Client alert, 3.20.2020**

Overview of Federal Coronavirus (COVID-19) Relief Bills

**Client alert, 11.9.2016**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio Election Summary 2016

**Client alert, 12.18.2015**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio General Assembly Wraps Up Work for 2015

**Client alert, 6.23.2015**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* House-Senate Conference Committee Working to Finalize Biennial Budget Bill This Week

**Client alert, 1.15.2015**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio House Speaker and Minority Leader Announce Key Committee Posts

**Client alert, 12.23.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio General Assembly Concludes Work – Passes Flurry of Legislation in Lame Duck

**Client alert, 11.5.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio Election Summary 2014

**Client alert, 9.19.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* New Tax and Energy Laws Take Effect; Legislative Study Committees Convening

**Client alert, 5.28.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* High Profile Ohio Bills Scheduled for Action before Summer Break

**Client alert, 3.25.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* House Considers State Capital Appropriations, Mid-Biennium Review Bills

**Client alert, 2.25.2014**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Governor Kasich Announces New Initiatives at Ohio State of the State Address

**Client alert, 12.5.2013**

*State and Local Tax Alert:* Changes to the Ohio Severance Tax Proposed

**Client alert, 9.27.2013**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Just As In Business, Relationships Paramount When Working With Legislators

**Client alert, 7.1.2013**

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Governor Kasich Signs Biennial Budget Bill, Issues Veto Statement



Client alert, 6.26.2013

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* House-Senate Conference Committee Reports Compromise Version of State Budget Bill

Client alert, 4.10.2013

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio House Finance Committee Unveils Substitute Budget Bill

Client alert, 12.19.2012

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* 129th General Assembly Wraps Up Legislative Session

Client alert, 10.25.2012

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Point/Counterpoint on the Upcoming Elections

Client alert, 10.3.2012

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* General Election Preview 2012

Client alert, 10.1.2012

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Constitutional Modernization Commission and Vorys Constitutional Seminar

Client alert, 2.29.2012

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Ohio Election Preview

Client alert, 7.12.2011

*Ohio Statehouse Update:* Governor Signs Budget Into Law

Client alert, 6.9.2011

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Senate Passes Budget Bill

Client alert, 6.2.2011

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Senate Finance Committee Accepts Substitute Version of the Budget Bill

Client alert, 3.16.2011

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Governor Kasich's Budget Proposal

Client alert, 3.10.2011

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Governor's State of the State Address

Client alert, 11.3.2010

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Ohio Election Summary

Client alert, 9.9.2010

*Ohio Statehouse Update -* Point/Counterpoint on the Upcoming Elections

Client alert, 6.25.2010

*Ohio Legislative Update:* 2010 Summer Recess Status Report - Ohio's 128th General Assembly

Client alert, 3.9.2010

*Client Alert:* American Renewable Energy Jobs Act Would Restrict Renewable Energy Grants

Client alert, 7.27.2009

*Client Alert:* Vorys Wins Decisive Victory on Behalf of Toledo Mayor

Client alert, 6.30.2009

*Client Alert:* E-Verify Compliance Pushed Again to September 8, 2009

Client alert, 6.19.2009

*Client Alert:* Treasury Unveils ARRA Executive Compensation and Corporate Governance Standards

Client alert, 11.19.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 6

Client alert, 11.5.2008

*Client Alert:* Ohio Election Summary

Authored article, *The Washington Post*, 10.2008

"Obama's Huge Haul Should End This Fight"

Client alert, 10.21.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 5

Client alert, 10.6.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 4

Client alert, 10.2.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 3

Client alert, 9.26.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 2

Client alert, 9.24.2008

*Client Alert:* Financial Crisis Update 1

Authored article, *Midwest In-House Counsel*, 7.1.2008

"From victim to villain"

Authored article, *Ohio Matters*, 9.1.2007

"Enough is Enough: Court Ruling Supports Business' Political Efforts"

Authored article, *Columbus Dispatch*, 1.26.2007

"Campaign-Finance Reform has Roots in Bigotry"

## Speaking Engagements

10.7.2021

Tips and Tricks for Transitioning from Private Practice to Government and Vice Versa

5.13.2021

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

3.18.2021

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

1.14.2021

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

12.10.2020

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

10.20.2020

Effective Use of Economic Development Incentives in Small and Mid-Sized Communities Webinar

10.8.2020

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

6.11.2020

Vorys On Call: Coronavirus - Return to Work Preparedness

5.13.2020

Reopening Your Business: Practical Considerations

Hosted by Heritage Ohio

4.2.2020

Vorys on Call: Coronavirus

3.26.2020

Vorys on Call: Coronavirus

2.11.2020

Representing the State

12.6.2019

2019 Economic Development 411

11.12.2019

2019 Property Tax Symposium

10.23.2019

OML Annual Conference

10.18.2019

2019: Presentation to the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio and to the Association on Higher Education and Disability in Ohio

10.17.2019

Japan America Society of Greater Cincinnati Annual Gala

10.11.2019

AILA Ohio Chapter Fall CLE Conference

10.11.2019

NAPTA 2019 Annual Conference

9.17.2019

Council of State Retail Associations

8.20.2019

OBL Cannabis Banking Conference

11.7.2018

Keep Ohio Beautiful Annual Meeting & Award Program

11.2.2017

Top Ten Tax Increment Financing Misconceptions

10.26.2017

2018 Vorys Consumer Financial Services Summit

10.24.2017

COST 48th Annual Meeting

10.6.2017

Annual Fall Ohio Conference

10.5.2017

2017 JASCO Economic Business Seminar

9.11.2017

Ohio Chemistry Technology Council Member Retreat & Golf Outing

Fireside Chat

9.18.2015

Wholesale Beer and Wine Association of Ohio Annual Fall Convention

2.27.2015

Ohio Bankers League Washington Fly-In

8.27.2014

White House Roundtable

3.28.2014

Alcohol & Beverage Law Conference

hosted by CLE International

2.25.2013

Tax Reform Informational Teleconference

Presented by Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP and hosted by The Ohio Council of Retail Merchants

1.28.2013

Top Ten Tax Topics to Watch for in 2013

Presented by Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP

2.17.2012

From Regulation to Prohibition to Regulation: The Evolution of Ohio's Liquor Laws

Presented by the Ohio Legislative Service Commission

3.22.2010

Congress and Bipartisanship: Can't We All Just Get Along?

The Lou Frey Institute of Politics and Government 2010 Spring Symposium

6.9.2009

14th Annual Inside Look Program for Summer Associates

Presented by the Legal Research & Information Resources Committee of the Cincinnati Bar Association