

James Weaver

PARTNER



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James Weaver has been assisting clients with government relations, including incentives and relocation packages for nearly 30 years. An attorney with a passion for policy and politics, James delivers strategic advice and counsel to clients seeking assistance understanding, interacting, or doing business with the government. From traditional lobbying to providing regulatory counsel, to leading complex public affairs efforts, to dealing with a crisis, James provides insightful guidance to his clients using his extensive experience and knowledge of how government works.

James has spent years building relationships and cultivating a reputation for honesty and excellence. He is particularly active in the following areas:

- Incentive programs and economic development
- Outside general counsel
- Natural resources (mining, environmental, energy)
- Real estate development
- Transportation
- Professional sports

Many of Tennessee's largest and highest-profile businesses rely on James as their primary government affairs advisor. Representative clients and industries include:

- Energy
- Professional sports teams
- Construction
- Healthcare
- Manufacturers
- Mining
- Development/Retail
- Waste management
- Communications

- Hospitality
- Significant non-profit entities
- Trade associations

James has spent years developing close relationships with elected officials and senior business leaders across the state. These relationships provide James with unique perspectives and an unparalleled ability to solve a client's problems. As part of his practice, James works with clients across the region with the site selection, incentives and permitting, and public, community and government affairs aspects of controversial projects. A charismatic country boy from a small town in West Tennessee with an innovative and influential spirit, James also delivers value by offering creative options and ideas to clients seeking to form, expand, relocate or revitalize their business.

EXPERIENCE

- **Electrical power, advanced materials company rezones industrial site in relocation effort**
Assisted a global expert in electrical power and advanced materials with the rezoning of an industrial site to facilitate the relocation of its operations from France to the United States.
- **AllianceBernstein relocates headquarters to Nashville**
Assisted AllianceBernstein with securing state and local incentives in order to relocate its new headquarters to Nashville, Tennessee.
- **Kinder Morgan deals with issues related to compressor station**
Assisted Kinder Morgan with government relations matters related to a compressor station.
- **Buckingham Corporation rezones land in the Gulch**
Assisted Buckingham Corporation with the rezoning of a site in the Gulch area of Nashville, Tennessee.
- **Bridgestone Americas, Inc. focused on state tax incentives**
Assisted Bridgestone Americas, Inc. with government relations matters by utilizing incentive mechanisms available, including the use of Tax Increment Financing.
- **Volkswagen to significantly expand Chattanooga assembly plant**
Represented the City of Chattanooga, Hamilton County and their Industrial Development Board in state and local incentive negotiations with Volkswagen to significantly expand the automaker's Chattanooga assembly plant.
- **Nashville Sounds develop new ballpark**
Advised the Nashville Sounds in the development of a brand new ballpark.
- **Duke Energy constructs new 14.5 mile long, 20 inch high pressure natural gas pipeline**
Assisted Duke Energy with environmental, government relations, litigation and real estate matters related to their new natural gas pipeline project.
- **Quarry operator seeks advice regarding compliance, recently developed sinkholes**
Advised a quarry operator with regard to compliance and has taken a lead role in addressing the complex legal, hydrologic and geologic issues arising from the sinkholes.
- **Monroe Investment Partners enters entitlement process for River North**

Assisted Monroe Investment Partners in the comprehensive zoning and land use, master planning and entitlement process for the 100-acre River North development in downtown Nashville.

- **UT Research Foundation to develop multiple energy and wind projects in Tennessee**

Assisted the UT Research Foundation in multiple regulatory, environmental and site development matters related to energy and wind projects.

- **Nashville Predators franchise to remain in Nashville**

Assisted a group of Nashville investors on acquiring the Nashville Predators franchise, thus keeping the team in Nashville.

- **Gaylord Entertainment Company focused on state tax incentives**

Assisted Ryman Hospitality/Gaylord Entertainment Company with government relations and state tax incentive matters.

- **Tennessee Titans established in Nashville**

Advised the Tennessee Titan's franchise through its relocation from Houston, which included a broad spectrum of legal and governmental issues.

EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Memphis, 1988
- B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1984

BAR ADMISSIONS

- Tennessee

RECOGNITIONS

The Best Lawyers in America© (BL Rankings)

- Environmental Law, 2013-2021
- Gaming Law, 2010-2021
- Government Relations Practice, 2007-2021

The Best Lawyers in America© (BL Rankings), 2021

- Lawyer of the Year - Government Relations Practice (Nashville)

The Best Lawyers in America© (BL Rankings), 2022

- Lawyer of the Year, Environmental Law (Nashville)

Mid-South Super Lawyers (Thomson Reuters)

- Super Lawyers - State/Local/Municipal (2006-2007, 2013-2020)

Nashville Business Journal

- Described as the City's "most prolific Metro lobbyist" and listed as a member of Nashville's "Power 100"
- Best of the Bar, 2019

PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

- Chairman, Government Affairs Committee and General Counsel for the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
- General Counsel, Tennessee Road Builders Association
- Fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation
- Member, Nashville, Tennessee and American Bar Associations
- Tennessee Editor for Matthew Bender's Brownfields Law and Practice treatise
- Former Vice-Chair, Government Relations for the Nashville Chamber of Commerce
- Former General Counsel, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Former Secretary/Treasurer and past Member, Executive Committee of the Environmental Law Section of the Tennessee Bar Association

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Member, Executive Committee and Board of Directors of the United Way of Metropolitan Nashville
- Former Board Chair and Member, Board of Commissioners of the Tennessee State Fair
- Former Board Member, General Counsel and Founding Board Chair, Forum for Youth Investment, Washington, D.C.
- Founding Board Chair, Community Impact! Nashville
- Former Board Chair, Reconciliation, Inc.
- Former Member, United Way of Middle Tennessee Agency Review Team
- Former Member, Board of Directors of Community Shares, Inc. and Council of Community Services