

**Nashville, TN Office**

615-647-8528

bsmith@holtzmanvogel.com

Related Practice Areas

- Appellate
- Commercial Litigation
- Constitutional Law
- Election Law
- Government and Congressional Investigations
- Higher Education Compliance
- Political Law
- State Attorneys General

Brandon J. Smith**Partner**

Brandon Smith is the managing partner of Holtzman Vogel's Nashville office and co-chair of the firm's State Attorneys General Practice, where he advises clients on high-stakes litigation, government investigations, political and regulatory strategy, board governance, and crisis management. Known for navigating complex legal and political challenges, Brandon brings a rare combination of executive leadership, litigation strategy, and policy expertise to matters with significant legal, corporate, and reputational risk.

Over the course of his career, Brandon has served at the highest levels of state government and conservative legal advocacy, helping shape high-profile litigation, public policy initiatives, and multistate strategic efforts across the country. He has advised elected officials, corporate leaders, advocacy organizations, and boards on matters involving constitutional law, regulatory enforcement, public affairs, crisis management, and institutional risk.

Prior to joining the firm, Brandon served as Chief of Staff and Assistant Solicitor General for the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, where he led complex litigation and coordinated national multistate initiatives. Earlier in his career, Brandon served as Executive Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs for Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin and as Policy Director to Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, where he helped advance major legislative, regulatory, and budget initiatives. Brandon has also held leadership roles within the broader conservative legal movement, including service with the Federalist Society and as an adjunct professor at American University.

His career has positioned him as a trusted advisor in consequential matters where legal, political, regulatory, and reputational considerations intersect.

Education

- The George Washington University Law School, LL.M., National Security and U.S. Foreign Relations Law
- University of Kansas School of Law, J.D.
- Abilene Christian University, B.A., *with honors*, Political Science

Bar & Court Admissions

- Kansas Bar
- Tennessee Bar
- U.S. District Court for the District of Kansas
- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee
- U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and Sixth Circuits

Clerkship/Government Experience

- Office of the Tennessee Attorney General, Chief of Staff and Assistant Solicitor General & Director of Policy and Federalism
- Office of Kentucky Governor Matt Bevin - Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Executive Director for Office of Legislative and Regulatory

Affairs

- Office of Kansas Governor Sam Brownback, Policy Director
- Shawnee County, Kansas District Attorney's Office - Law Clerk

News & Insights

- Jury Finds Live Nation and Ticketmaster Liable of Monopolizing the Ticketing Market — What Companies Need to Know
- Companies Must Navigate Partisan Regulatory Agendas from States
- What Kalshi Cases Reveal About State Authority, Regulation
- Brandon Smith to Speak on Panel: Safeguarding Vulnerable Populations Online
- Gov. Lee's judicial legacy is one of Tennessee's strongest
- TN must revamp corporate laws to remain an economic leader
- As DEI Dies, Corporate America Faces Serious Risk
- State AGs and the Supreme Court 2025 Term
- U of I scrutinized over perceived preference for international students
- Holtzman Vogel Files Amicus Brief on Behalf of 23 State Attorneys General Supporting President Trump in DC Crime Lawsuit
- Brandon Smith Appointed as Chair to U.S. Commission of Civil Rights' Tennessee Advisory Board
- Why the Private Sector Can't Ignore State AGs: Advice from a Former Insider
- Brandon Smith Appears on The Real Story with Riley Lewis on Nationwide Injunction
- The Supreme Court can settle the question of nationwide injunctions
- With judicial nomination of Whitney Hermandorfer, Trump commits to rule of law
- Will Justices Finally Rein In Universal Injunctions?
- Political Law Specialist Holtzman Vogel Expands to Nashville with Former Top Aide to Two Governors
- Holtzman Vogel Expands into Tennessee with Addition of Former Tennessee Attorney General Chief of Staff Brandon Smith

Community Involvement

- Board Chair, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights Tennessee State Advisory Committee (2025-Present)
- Tennessee Bar Association (2019-Present)
- Blackstone Legal Fellowship (2009-Present)
- Christian Legal Society Member (2008-Present)
- Federalist Society Member, Executive Committee Member-Federalism Practice Group (2008-Present)
- Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law (Emerging Leaders Program) (2021-2022)
- The United States-Spain Council Young Leaders Program (2020-2022)
- Nashville Bar Association, Nashville Bar Journal Executive Committee Member (2020-2021)
- Atlantic Initiative, United States-Germany Transatlantic Fellowship (2017-2019)

- Christian Legal Aid of the District of Columbia: Clinic Director, Fundraising Chair, Member of the Board of Directors (2012-2015)

Publications

- Jury Finds Live Nation and Ticketmaster Liable of Monopolizing the Ticketing Market — What Companies Need to Know
- Companies Must Navigate Partisan Regulatory Agendas from States
- What Kalshi Cases Reveal About State Authority, Regulation
- Gov. Lee’s judicial legacy is one of Tennessee’s strongest
- TN must revamp corporate laws to remain an economic leader
- As DEI Dies, Corporate America Faces Serious Risk
- Why the Private Sector Can’t Ignore State AGs: Advice from a Former Insider
- With judicial nomination of Whitney Hermandorfer, Trump commits to rule of law
- The Supreme Court can settle the question of nationwide injunctions

Speaking Engagements

- Brandon Smith to Speak on Panel: Safeguarding Vulnerable Populations Online
- State AGs and the Supreme Court 2025 Term
- Brandon Smith Appears on The Real Story with Riley Lewis on Nationwide Injunction