

Political Law Specialist Holtzman Vogel Expands to Nashville with Former Top Aide to Two Governors

By Thomas Spigolon

April 25, 2025

What You Need to Know

- Political law firm Holtzman Vogel sees opportunities in its corporate practices, too, in Nashville.
- The firm has added the former chief of staff to Tennessee's attorney general to open the firm's newest office.
- Holtzman has cemented itself as a prominent political law player within conservative circles.

Holtzman Vogel Baran Torchinsky & Josefiak sees "great demand" for both its commercial litigation expertise and its core political law practice in Nashville where it has added a top Tennessee state official to lead a new office.

The GOP-aligned firm opened its sixth office nationwide this month in a city with an "exploding business base" by adding veteran conservative political aide Brandon Smith this month as a partner from a chief of staff position with Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti.

Holtzman Vogel managing partner Jill Holtzman Vogel said the firm's expansion into Tennessee will "offer our local clients access to a combined powerhouse of legal and government affairs expertise in a state that is business-friendly and nationally recognized for outstanding governance."

"We have great opportunities to serve clients across key industries that are thriving here, from



Courtesy photo

Brandon Smith of Holtzman Vogel.

health care to technology to regulated sectors, and we're excited to grow in a city that reflects our values and vision," she said.

In recent years, the Washington, D.C.-based firm has cemented itself as a prominent political law player within conservative circles. One of its partners, William McGinley, served as a top White House aide in Trump's first term and was Trump's original choice to be White House counsel in the current administration.

Holtzman Vogel also brought in six-figure paychecks last year for work for the state of Florida during Gov. Ron DeSantis' second term, including work to uphold the state's ban on gender-affirming medical care.

Vogel, a former Virginia state senator and chief counsel to the Republican National Committee, said the law firm she founded in 2001 already has “deep roots serving clients in Nashville.”

She said in an email Nashville is unique because of its “strong legal talent pool and growing client base,” as well as the “collaborative approach of state and local leaders.”

“With an exploding business base in Nashville and beyond, Brandon spearheads this expansion into the market at a critical time when our talent and expertise are in great demand,” Vogel said.

Smith joined the Washington, D.C.-based firm’s national government and corporate investigations and political law practices. He is leading the new office with associate Oliver Roberts, who is co-head of the firm’s AI practice group.

He also will join the firm’s associated lobbying and government affairs firm, the Vogel Group, which has been in Tennessee since 2022 and will operate out of Holtzman Vogel’s Nashville office, the firm announced.

Smith said Holtzman Vogel is well-known in areas where “law, policy and politics intersect,”

and he wanted to join a firm “that shares my commitment to principled advocacy and smart, strategic counsel.”

The new partner is well-traveled and has served in senior state-level government and government-related positions across the South and Midwest.

He worked four years as deputy director of The Federalist Society organization for conservative lawyers in Washington, D.C., before serving as a senior policy adviser and counsel to former Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback in Topeka, Kansas, and former Kentucky Gov. Matt Bevin in Frankfort, Kentucky.

He joined the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office as assistant solicitor general and director of policy and federalism in 2019 and was promoted to chief of staff in 2022.

Skrmetti said Smith “has shaped national policy, taken on some of the most powerful financial companies in the world, and coordinated complex multistate efforts.”

“His successes in public service provide a great foundation for an extremely effective practice,” Skrmetti said.