



Samuel H. Porter, III

Partner

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Samuel H. Porter, III navigates the ever-changing expanse of the highly regulated industry landscape throughout the country. A partner in Ice Miller's Government Affairs & Regulatory Law Group, Sam employs his deep experience in states' most analyzed sectors, balancing the legalities of gaming, alcohol, and cannabis law to help clients within and adjacent to these industries overcome challenges and seize opportunities to achieve their business goals. His broad scope of services has allowed him to cultivate a career built on forward thought and government insight at the highest level.

Prior to joining Ice Miller, Sam was the regional director of compliance for Penn Entertainment (Penn). From ensuring compliance with the Ohio Casino Control Commission's guidelines to managing relationships with gaming executives and regulators, Sam managed a team of compliance officers and worked with other Penn compliance officers across the country to help direct, implement, improve, and streamline processes and procedures at the company.

As Executive Director of the Ohio Liquor Control Commission, Sam served as the chief regulator overseeing the regulation and quasi-judicial hearing process protecting both the public and liquor permit holders. He also was responsible for providing counsel on all legal and policy matters, including legislative changes involving liquor and gaming.

Sam has helped orchestrate, launch, and maintain compliant programs in highly regulated industries, representing clients in any industries that require advocacy — whether that is before a governing agency or at the statehouse. His practice spans an array of industries that aim to connect people and build community, representing clients in any industries that require advocacy. Sam gained valuable political experience in Washington, D.C. as a legislative correspondent to Congresswoman Deborah Pryce, with whom he worked on legislative issues and served as a liaison to her constituents, as well as worked at the United States Republican Conference. He also served as a clerk for the U.S. House Judiciary Committee. In these roles, he was immersed in federal policymaking and gained an understanding of federal government operations, helping him build the blueprint for navigating legal and policy matters through his career.

Services & Industries

- Cannabis
- Economic Development Strategies & Incentives
- Gaming, Sports Betting & Alcohol Law
- Government Affairs & Regulatory Law
- Government
- Ice Miller Strategies - Federal Public Policy & Consulting
- Ohio Lobbying
- Procurement

From the courtroom and Governor's office to the frontline of industry regulation, Sam consistently works to elevate his practice and connect people. As Assistant Chief Counsel to the Office of Governor John Kasich, Sam worked on a myriad of legal matters that were critical to the citizens of Ohio and served as a legal liaison with the executive state agencies to brief the Governor. His background as an assistant prosecuting attorney for Franklin County helped him build a solid foundation in litigation and public safety, prosecuting more than 1,500 felony, misdemeanor, and juvenile cases, experiences that further afforded him the ability to think on his feet and argue cases before a jury. These undertakings ultimately helped build a skillset that would prove invaluable in Sam's ability to translate legal complexities into policy.

Throughout his career, Sam has built a reputation as a strategist, not only interpreting the law but also playing an instrumental role in shaping it. His ability to bridge the gap between law, politics, and business, while anticipating challenges and cultivating solutions, makes him an authority in Ohio's legal landscape.

Education

- Wake Forest University (B.A., 2004)
 - Economics
- Capital University Law School (J.D., 2008)

Admissions

- Ohio

Professional Affiliations

- Ohio Cannabis Coalition (OHCANN), 2025
- Member of Board of Directors, Problem Gambling Network of Ohio, 2022-present
- Chair, Ohio State Bar Association Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Law Committee, 2021-2024
- Ohio State Bar Association Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Law Committee, Vice Chair and Chair of Cannabis Subcommittee, 2020-2021
- Ohio State Bar Association Gaming, Liquor & Cannabis Law Committee, Chair of Liquor Subcommittee, 2018-2020
- Member, International Association of Gaming Advisors (IAGA), 2022-2026

Awards & Honors

- *The Best Lawyers In America*®, Government Relations Practice, 2024-2026
- *Columbus CEO's Best Lawyers List*, 2022

Community Involvement

- Board Member, ProMusica Chamber Orchestra, 2024-present
- Board Member, Ohio Historic Site Preservation Advisory Board, 2018-2023
- Board of Trustees, Association of Ohio Commodores, 2016-present
- Committee Chair, Upper Arlington Fourth of July, 2017-present
- Director, Upper Arlington Civic Association, 2020-2022
- Pelotonia, 2009-2020
- Nominating Council, First Community Church, 2012-2013
- Akita Council Board, First Community Church, 2008-2013

Thought Leadership

May 11, 2026

Betting on Borrowed Money: Why States Are Eliminating Credit Cards from Sports Wagering

April 24, 2026

Federal Cannabis Reform in Motion: What Businesses Need to Know

December 11, 2025

Attention Cannabis Operators: Ohio's DCC Issues Employee Training Guidance Turning a Broad Rule into a Defined Compliance Obligation

November 18, 2025

The Federal Government Reopens – And Tackles Hemp-Derived THC

October 29, 2025

Compliance Crossroads: Preparing for Ohio's 2026 Cannabis Workforce Rules and Mitigating Wage Litigation Risks

October 17, 2025

High Stakes in Ohio: DeWine Orders Crackdown on Intoxicating Hemp and What the Emergency Order and a New Lawsuit Means for Retailers and Cannabis Operators

June 12, 2025

The New Ohio eBingo and RVLGT Gaming Bill Introduced and What It Means

May 21, 2025

Modernizing Play: Ohio's Path Toward Regulating iGaming and iLottery is Here

May 1, 2024

DEA Will Move to Reschedule Cannabis

January 31, 2022

Ohio Recreational Ballot Initiative - Tick Tock!

January 25, 2022

Ohio to Announce Winners of Medical Marijuana Dispensary Lottery This Week

January 13, 2022

Ohio Dispensary Lottery Nearing

January 4, 2022

Ohio Lawmakers Approve Bill to Legalize Sports Wagering

September 23, 2021

Two Sunny States, Hawaii and California, Shine Light on Regulating Hemp-Derived CBD Products

September 2, 2021

Ohio Moves Another Step Closer to Adult Use Cannabis Legalization

Speaking Engagements

- "High Level: Ohio Regulatory and Politics of Cannabis," COSI After Dark, Center of Science and Industry (COSI), April 9, 2026
- "Ohio Hot Topics on Legal and Regulatory Issues Facing Ohio," CLE Presentation, December 9, 2025
- "Ohio State Takeover at MJBizCon," MJ Biz Conference, Las Vegas, NV, December 4, 2025
- "Ohio's Adult-Use Cannabis Law: Local Government Rights and Program Overview," Ohio Township Association Webinar, May 20, 2024
- "Overview of Issue 2- Ohio Adult Use Law," Ohio Township Association, December 8, 2023
- "Ohio Cannabis Overview and Issue 2 Adult Use Law Overview with Marijuana Industry Trade Association," MJ Biz Conference, Las Vegas, NV, November 16, 2023
- Speaker, "Preparing for Adult Use Opportunities in Ohio/What States Are Next Opportunities—Getting You Ready for 2024 and Beyond," Ohio Cannabis Health & Business Summit, October 7, 2023
- "Preparing for Adult Use Opportunities in Ohio," National Public Radio, October 5, 2023
- "Ohio Sports Wagering and Gaming Regulatory Roundtable," SBC North America Summit, May 11, 2023.
- "It's High Time With Marijuana In Ohio: How Did We Get Here and Where Are We Going?" CLE Presentation, November 30, 2022
- "Support Services to Cannabis Business Operators, including legal, banking, software, employment, and other adjacent topics," Arcview Access, August 25, 2022
- "Cannabis and Hemp Banking: Opportunity, Compliance, Risks, And What We Can Expect Next," inVest48Ohio Credit Union League, May 12, 2021
- 2020 Post Election Recap, What Now for the Cannabis Industry? AlphaRoot Webinar, December 8, 2020
- "Cannabis: National State of Affairs," CLE Presentation, Ohio State Bar Association, October 8, 2020
- "Hemp Business- A New Frontier and What it Means," CLE Presentation, December 19, 2019
- Penn National Gaming, Inc. 2019 Compliance Leadership Summit, Moderator on Bank Secrecy Act, Anti-Money Laundering, Title 31, IRS Audits, September 9, 2019