

EDUCATION

Columbia University School of Law, New York, NY, *Juris Doctor received May 2005*

Honors: Public Service Fellow, Summer 2003

Activities: *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*, Notes Editor

Amherst College, Amherst, MA, *Bachelor of Arts received May 2000*

Majors: History and Political Science

Honors: *magna cum laude* with High Distinction in History

New England Small College Athletic Conference All-Academic Team 1997, 1998, 1999

Activities: Varsity Football, 1996-1999 (Team Captain, 1999); Student Senate

EXPERIENCE

Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP, Cincinnati, OH

January 2020 – Present

Senior Counsel

- Real Estate and Public Finance practice groups.

City of Cincinnati, Cincinnati, OH

April 2014 – January 2020

Deputy City Solicitor

- Senior leader responsible for Law Department sections supporting economic development, community development, real estate, transportation, land use and planning, and administrative boards and hearings.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, Cincinnati, OH

June 2011 – April 2014

Director of National Strategic Initiatives

Sept. 2012 – April 2014

- Directed development of national initiatives and partnerships that generated \$2.5 million of programmatic support, with special focus on combating human trafficking and national fundraising;
- Directed acquisition and re-design of web property EndSlaveryNow.com and re-incorporation of its 501c3 corporation as a subsidiary of the Freedom Center.

General Counsel, Director of Strategic Initiatives

Nov. 2011 – Sept. 2012

- Directed development of national impact initiatives and national strategic partnerships; e.g., created and led multi-party national coalition in production of State Department and Google-funded documentary shown worldwide September 2012.
- Directed all legal affairs, including the merger of the Freedom Center and Cincinnati Museum Center; responsible for development of significant revenue enhancements across organization.

Gen. Counsel, Dir. of Operations & Contemporary Slavery Initiatives June 2011 – Nov. 2011

- Directed all operational staff, including facilities, AV/IT, guest services, retail and café staff.

Ohio Attorney General Richard Cordray, Columbus, OH

Jan. 2009 – Jan. 2011

Executive Assistant Attorney General, Section Chief

- Senior Staff member working in a team environment to manage Ohio government agency with 1600 employees and over 400 attorneys; helped develop and manage strategic plan, legislative initiatives, media relations, and hiring.
- Developed innovative partnership with Ohio University System to encourage investment in, and commercialization of, university research; led negotiation of nationally unprecedented Master Research Agreement between all Ohio public universities and Procter & Gamble; founded Research & Commercialization Task Force among Ohio university representatives to focus on similar university-industry collaboration.

LUKE BLOCHER

Cincinnati, Ohio • 45220

- Led team that created and implemented Ohio's first Economic Development Accountability Program, which analyzed over 3,600 state economic development awards to assess specific award compliance and the effectiveness of Ohio's monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
- Co-Chaired Attorney General's Advanced Energy Task Force, consisting of roughly 20 attorneys; led team that executed unprecedented Submerged Land Lease Option with public/private partnership developing wind turbines in Lake Erie.
- Managed Planning & Analysis section of 3 attorneys and 5 policy analysts focused on developing new and cross-sectional initiatives, reforming high-priority office operations, and analyzing emerging legal issues.

Richard Cordray for Attorney General, Columbus, OH

July 2008 – Dec. 2008

Campaign Manager: managed staff of ten; developed and administered roughly \$3 Million budget; developed media and polling plans with outside consultants; candidate won by 19 percentage points.

Kirkland & Ellis LLP, Washington, DC

Litigation Associate

Sept. 2005 – June 2008

Summer Associate

May 2004 – Aug. 2004

- Defended the domestic auto industry at trial in action involving federal preemption of state emissions regulation; responsible for witness preparation at trial, development of deposition testimony, and management of written discovery; multi-month federal bench trial involved four plaintiffs and multiple intervenor-defendants.
- Represented energy concern in confirmation trial and emergence from Chapter 11; independently managed settlement of claims against debtor.
- Primary responsibility for drafting major dispositive motions and managing discovery in bankruptcy, regulatory and health care litigation.

Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP, Cincinnati, OH

May 2003 – July 2003

Summer Associate: provided analysis in areas of employment law, labor law and civil procedure.

Hawkins, Delafield & Wood, New York, NY

Mar. 2001 – May 2002

Paralegal: provided analysis of energy regulations and economic development legislation.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Vice-President, Local School Decision-Making Committee for Clifton Area Neighborhood School

Board Member, Urban Land Institute Real Estate Accelerator Lab

Advisory Board Member, Greater Cincinnati Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC)

Member, Battelle STEM Innovation Lab Advisory Board, 2011 – 2013

Member, End Slavery Cincinnati Advisory Board, 2011 – 2013