Access to Experts

Wesley Bizzell , Assistant General Counsel , Altria Client Services Inc.

Wesley Bizzell serves as Assistant General Counsel, External Affairs for Altria Client Services Inc. ("ALCS"). Mr. Bizzell provides in-house legal counsel on matters relating to the political, legislative, and lobbying activities of Altria Group, Inc., its services companies, including ALCS, and its operating companies, including Philip Morris USA Inc., U.S. Smokeless Tobacco Co. LLC, John Middleton Co., Nu Mark LLC, and Ste. Michelle Wine Estates Ltd.

In this role, Mr. Bizzell is responsible for ensuring that Altria and its companies comply with all laws and regulations regarding federal, state, local, and international campaign finance, government ethics, gifts to government officials, lobbying disclosure and reporting, and charitable giving. Overseeing a comprehensive compliance system covering the regulation of government affairs, Mr. Bizzell provides advice and guidance on political law compliance for more than 75 jurisdictions. Mr. Bizzell also heads the legal team that supports Altria's public policy activities, providing services related to legislative and regulatory drafting and interpretation. Mr. Bizzell is a member of Altria's Compliance Leadership Team and its Anti-Corruption Compliance Working Group.

Mr. Bizzell is an authority on political compliance law and has lectured on political compliance law issues at many venues across the country. He is a co-chair of The Conference Board Committee on Corporate Political Spending, a committee of leading American corporations dedicated to accountability, education, and engagement on issues of corporate political activity. In addition, he is a faculty member for the Practicing Law Institute's annual Corporate Political Activities conference and serves on both the Publications Committee and the Conference Committee for the Council on Governmental Ethics Laws ("COGEL"), a professional organization of government officials with responsibilities or interests in governmental ethics, elections, campaign finance, and lobby laws. He also is a member of the California Political Attorneys Association.

Previously, Mr. Bizzell was an attorney in Winston & Strawn LLP's Federal Government Relations and Regulatory Affairs Practice Group. His career also includes more than six years on Capitol Hill, where he served as an aide to Arkansas Senators David Pryor and Dale Bumpers. While at Winston & Strawn, Mr. Bizzell provided significant representation on political compliance, government affairs, legislative, and regulatory matters. He has served as outside ethics counsel to the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission, provided legal counsel to the election campaigns of gubernatorial and congressional candidates, represented corporate clients in enforcement actions before the Federal Election Commission, and conducted internal investigations related to corporate political activities.

Mr. Bizzell is extremely active in promoting diversity and inclusion within the legal and corporate communities. He is a member of the Altria Law Department's Diversity Committee, serves on the steering committee for Mosaic (Altria's LGBT Employee Resource Group), and is a board member for the National LGBT Bar Foundation. In addition, Mr. Bizzell volunteers as a mentor for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity's Law School Mentoring Program.

Mr. Bizzell graduated with a B.A. in justice, magna cum laude, from the American University in Washington, D.C. and received a Master of Social Work with a focus in public policy from the Catholic University of America. He received his J.D., magna cum laude, from Georgetown University Law Center, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif and served as an editor for the Georgetown Law Journal. He is a member of the Maryland and District of Columbia bars.

Contact Carol Courter, Manager, Corporate Communications, +1 212 339 0232, courter@conferenceboard.org

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