

Stephen M. Waguespack

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Professional Experience

U.S. Chamber of Commerce – Washington, DC

**President, Institute for Legal Reform; Senior Vice President,
State & Local Advocacy**

December 2023 – Present

- Lead the nation's most influential legal reform organization, overseeing strategic initiatives in state, federal, and international arenas.
- Direct the U.S. Chamber's national network of 50+ state, metro, and local chambers, coordinating policy advocacy across state capitols.
- Develop and execute a modernized model to advance legal reform and foster a pro-business climate nationwide.

Candidate for Governor – State of Louisiana

April 2023 – November 2023

- Raised over \$7 million in seven months, building and managing a statewide campaign team.
- Earned endorsements from major publications, including *The Advocate* and *Times-Picayune*.
- Finished third in a competitive 16-candidate open primary, outperforming many current and former elected officials.
- Participated in statewide debates and forums, receiving strong public and media reviews.

**Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) –
Baton Rouge, LA**

President and CEO

September 2013 – March 2023

- Led Louisiana's largest business and manufacturing association, representing 2,300+ businesses and 320,000+ employees.
- Spearheaded complete organizational transformation in advocacy, messaging, operations, and fundraising.
- Managed all aspects of LABI's nonprofit and political entities, including five PACs, a C(4), a foundation, and a health benefits center.

- Negotiated the sale and purchase of LABI headquarters, leading design and fundraising for a new facility without incurring debt.
- Acted as a key advisor to state officials, party leaders, and business executives; authored a weekly statewide policy column.

Jones Walker LLP – Baton Rouge, LA
Special Counsel

November 2012 – September 2013

- Directed the firm's Government Relations Practice Group and multi-state advocacy efforts.
- Advised clients across sectors on business development, legislation, and regulatory strategy.
- Appointed by the Governor to the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE).

Office of Governor Bobby Jindal – Baton Rouge, LA
Chief of Staff, Executive Counsel, Director of Policy

January 2008 – October 2012

- Served as top policy advisor and operations leader across multiple senior roles in the Governor's office.
- Developed and implemented major legislative initiatives on ethics, education, energy, healthcare, and taxation.
- Negotiated with stakeholders and legislators on key reforms; played lead role in keeping the NBA franchise in New Orleans.
- Directed cabinet coordination and served on several state boards, including the State Bond Commission and Law Institute.

Bobby Jindal for Governor Campaign – Baton Rouge, LA
Policy Director

February 2007 – January 2008

- Designed and authored a comprehensive policy platform for the successful 2007 gubernatorial campaign.
- Led post-election transition team, managing cabinet appointments and organizational planning.

The Alpine Group – Washington, DC
Vice President

October 2002 – February 2007

- Advised Fortune 500 clients and trade associations on federal legislation and appropriations strategy.
- Secured congressional funding and advocated for policy priorities in energy, tech, and homeland security sectors.

- Prepared clients for congressional testimony and coordinated multi-client policy coalitions.

U.S. House of Representatives – Washington, DC
Legislative Director to Congressman Joe Barton (TX)

May 1997 – October 2002

- Directed legislative strategy and staff for Congressman Barton, then Chair of the Energy & Air Quality Subcommittee.
- Negotiated key provisions in energy and telecom legislation; led bipartisan outreach and stakeholder engagement.

Education

The Catholic University of America – Columbus School of Law

Washington, DC | Juris Doctor, May 2005

Louisiana State University

Baton Rouge, LA | B.A. in Mass Communication (Journalism), May 1997