



J. Stephen Smith

CONTACT

859-578-3070 (office)
859-801-7504 (mobile)
859-578-3071 (fax)

ssmith@graydon.law

Northern Kentucky

2400 Chamber Center Drive, Suite 300
Ft. Mitchell, KY 41017

EDUCATION

Denison University, B.A., History, 1988
University of Kentucky Patterson School of
Diplomacy, M.A., Negotiations Economics,
1990

LAW SCHOOL

University of Cincinnati College of Law, J.D.,
1995

BAR ADMISSIONS

Commonwealth of Kentucky
State of Indiana
State of Ohio
U.S. Court of Appeals - Sixth Circuit
U.S. District Court - Eastern District of
Kentucky
U.S. District Court - Western District of
Kentucky
U.S. District Court - Northern District of
Indiana
U.S. District Court - Southern District of
Indiana
U.S. District Court - Southern District of Ohio

AREAS OF PRACTICE

Compliance & Ethics
Labor & Employment
Litigation
Risk Management
White Collar Defense & Investigations

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Leadership Northern Kentucky - Class of
2004
Cincinnati Academy Leadership for Lawyers
(CALL) Class V - 2001
University of Cincinnati College of Law -
Adjunct Professor of Ethics
Northern Kentucky Youth Hockey Association
- Board of Directors - 1999-2002 - President -

Steve Smith lives in Ft. Mitchell, KY with Emmy award winning writer Vicki Prichard, dogs Bruno and Oberon, and a bunch of fish in a pond with enough bullfrogs to start a choir. His parents, Jim and Gay, live two streets away in the same house where he and his sisters Caryn (Aspen, CO) and Elisabeth (Mt. Lookout, OH) grew up. His family tree falls from journalists in Iowa, corn and pig farmers in Indiana, and workers and inventors in West Virginia.

As a kid, Steve played soccer, tennis, golf, baseball, basketball, and ice-hockey, enjoyed snow and water skiing, and even tried football for one excruciating season. Soccer, tennis, and ice-hockey lasted the longest, resulting in a newly reconstructed shoulder in 2014. The denial of weekend warriors is real.

Even though it wasn't a strong suit, Steve once played basketball in the International Student Games in Istanbul, Turkey, via the Edinburgh University team in Scotland (where, logically enough, he studied Chinese). The Edinburgh team won the U.K. league, and hence the invitation to Turkey. What wasn't known was that Edinburgh was supposed to send a variety of teams, but only sent basketball. "So we played basketball, swam, ran track, and other sports, with no equipment and no training. "Waxed" is putting it lightly. It was a multi-sport beat down."

Steve's long-term clients are long-term friends. "It has to be that way. With friends there is room to disagree and have tough conversations without jeopardizing the relationship. The lack of true friendship makes tough conversations unnecessarily stressful and leads to miscommunication." Because his clients are friends with businesses, he tends to wear many hats. "Sure, there are plenty of times when I need a true specialist, and we have those, but I need to be able to see the entire business. Whether it is tax, business and personal planning, employment, internal investigations, or litigation and risk analysis, I have to be able to see it. Then, we work to solve the problem with the people and pieces that I need."

"Compliance and ethics, including Risk Management, are increasingly dominant practice areas. As clients needs develop, I develop to meet their needs."

2002 - Secretary - 2001
Children's Law Center Inc. - Board of
Directors- 1999-2005
Hospice of the Bluegrass - Advisory Board -
2010-Present
APPE Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl National
Championship - Judge - 2010-2011
Lawyers Mutual Insurance Company of
Kentucky - Board of Directors - 2018-present

AFFILIATIONS

Northern Kentucky Bar Association - Member
- Past President (2007) - President (2006) -
President Elect (2005) - Secretary (2004) -
Board of Directors (2003-2004)
Cincinnati Bar Association - Board of
Directors (2000-2002) - Chair of YLS (2001) -
Chair-elect of YLS (2000) - Secretary (1999) -
YLS Board of Directors (1998)
Kentucky Bar Association - Board of
Governors (June 2011-2017) - Ethics Hotline
Representative (2005-2012) - Ethics
Committee - Member (2005-2012) - Rules
Committee Member (2014-Present)
Kentucky Bar Association - President-Elect
(2018-2019)
Kentucky Bar Association - President
(2019-2020)
Kentucky Bar Association - Immediate Past-
President (2020-2021)
Kentucky Bar Association - Vice President
(2017-2018)
Kentucky Bar Association - Rules Committee
Chair (2015-2019)
Kentucky Bar Association - Evidence Rules
Review Commission (2017-2018)
Kentucky Bar Association - Chief Justice's
Committee on the Future of the Practice of
Law (2018)
American Bar Association - House of
Delegates