

Tim R. Coonan

Special Counsel



Special Counsel

Des Moines

D +1 515 246 7896

M +1 515 991 3916

tim.coonan@dentons.com

Overview

Tim Coonan is a lawyer with a fundamental understanding of the legislative process and a proven track record of success, regardless of which party is control. He is Chair of the Dentons Davis Brown Government Relations Department with over 15 years of lobbying experience before the Iowa Legislature and executive branch agencies and nearly 25 years of public policy experience including three years doing policy work in Washington D.C. with Williams and Jensen PLLC.

Tim represents trade associations, issue advocacy organizations, healthcare providers, energy companies, local governments, global financial services companies, technology groups and others before government agencies, administrative entities, and the legislative and executive branches at state and federal levels.

Tim is passionate about creating legislative agendas that advance his clients' overall strategic goals and then employs direct lobbying and grassroots strategies to achieve those goals. He actively meets with and seeks out stakeholders, potential allies, and key legislators to help his clients garner support and create meaningful, productive relationships.

Experience

Communication

Tim has a demonstrated ability to keep his clients informed about relevant activity and opportunities at the Capitol, while ensuring policymakers and key stakeholders understand the issues important to clients. During the Iowa legislative session, Tim identifies, tracks, analyzes, and when appropriate, responds to hundreds of bills. He provides each client with a weekly, personalized update and analysis of pertinent legislation.

Lobbying

Over the course of the last 25 years, both at the state and federal levels, Tim has worked on behalf of his clients to achieve success in the public policy arena through both the rules and the legislative processes. Passed legislation he has worked on includes:

- Wind tax credits
- Telecommunications regulatory relief
- Financial services tax policy
- Railroad Right of Way
- Fiduciary Access to Digital Assets Act
- Scope of practice

Regardless of party control in the chambers or the governor's office, Tim has annually defeated multiple mandates on behalf of clients, including mandates affecting the electric utility, insurance, housing and entertainment industries. He has also been successful amending legislation on behalf of his clients, including:

- Franchise Fee legislation
- Creation of the Iowa Power Fund
- State Historical Preservation Office reform
- 2nd Amendment legislation
- Education policy legislation
- Probate legislation
- Insurance regulation

Grassroots advocacy and coalition building

Tim excels at engaging like-minded companies, organizations, associations, and entities to form coalitions and find common ground on important, shared issues to create one voice at the Capitol. This voice helps drive discussion and positive change for coalition members and clients.

Previously, Tim was the Director of Government Relations for the Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives (IAEC). During that time, he:

- Organized a statewide grassroots effort resulting in over 75,000 postcards mailed to Iowa's U.S. Senators regarding the REC's position on cap-and-trade legislation
- Managed a broad coalition of industries, governmental entities, economic development groups, and agricultural groups regarding a negative FEMA ruling on storm recovery funding
- Grew the IAEC political action committee (PAC) fourfold

Before this role, he spent four years on the Iowa House Republican Caucus staff and three years doing policy work in Washington D.C.

Recognition

- The Best Lawyers in America[®] 2021: Ranked in Government Relations

Honors and Awards

- Leadership Iowa, class of 2009

In the Media

- Quoted, "Trump and Your Small Business," Des Moines Business Journal, December 2016

Insights

- Davis Brown Government Relations Blog
- Co-author, "Election Briefing and Legislative Preview," Davis Brown Law Firm, December 2020
- Co-author, "Doing Business in the United States: Iowa," *PLC multi-jurisdictional guide*, Practical Law Company, July 2020

Activities and Affiliations

- Iowa State Bar Association

Community Involvement and Pro Bono

- Variety Club of Central Iowa
- Member, Drake University National Alumni Board
- President, Phi Delta Theta Housing Corporation
- President, St. Augustin School Board of Education
- Lifetime Member, Veterans of Foreign Wars

Presentations

- Co-presenter, "Iowa Legislative Update," 2021 Iowa Land Investment Expo, January 2021
- Co-presenter, "Election Update and 2020 Legislative Forecast," Davis Brown 2020 Election Briefing and Legislative Forecast Event, December 2020
- Presenter, Iowa Taxpayers Association Annual Tax Symposium, November 2020
- Presenter, Iowa Association of Community Providers Conference, August 2020
- Co-presenter, "Political/Regulatory Perspective: What's Happened, What to Expect," Innovation Advancement Workshop Panel Discussion, Iowa Biotechnology Association, November 2017
- Co-presenter, "Federal Forecast for Employers," American Payroll Association Central Iowa Chapter, October 2017
- Co-presenter, "2017 Iowa Legislative Session Update," Association of Corporate Counsel Iowa Chapter, June 2017
- Co-presenter, "Post-Election State and Federal Legislative and Regulatory Update and Forecast," Financial Executives International Iowa Chapter, March 2017

Memberships

- Board Member, Iowa Association of Business and Industry
- Board Secretary/Treasurer, Iowa Taxpayers Association
- Board Member and former Government Policy Council chair, Greater Des Moines Partnership

Prior and Present Employment

- Dentons Davis Brown (formerly Davis Brown Law Firm)
- Drake University Law School, Adjunct Instructor of Legislative Practice
- Iowa Association of Electric Cooperatives
- Iowa General Assembly
- United States Army Reserves
- Dave Millage for Iowa's Attorney General Campaign
- Williams and Jensen, PLLC

Areas of focus

Practices

- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Trusts, Estates and Wealth Preservation
- Intelligence and Strategic Services
- Public Policy and Regulation
- Advocacy and Government Affairs

Industry sectors

- Cannabis
- Communications
- Construction
- Energy
- Financial Institutions
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Manufacturing
- State, Regional, Provincial, Municipal and Local Government Bodies
- Gaming

Issues and opportunities

- Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technology
- Dentons Davis Brown

Education

- Drake University Law School, 2002, JD

- Drake University, 1996, BA

Admissions and qualifications

- Iowa