

NEWS & BREWS - INDUSTRY UPDATE

Co-moderators, Josh Pruett and Tim McKinney, Legislative Consultants for NATO, the National Association of Tobacco Outlets, will kick us off with an up to the minute discussion of the latest federal and state issues facing our industry.



Josh Pruett, NATO Legislative Consultant

Josh started his career as a legislative consultant with NATO in 2009 after spending a year with R.J. Reynolds. He has held many different roles during his time at NATO. Josh's responsibilities include monitoring local, state, and federal legislation. Currently, he monitors over half the country at the local level, 17 states, and federal legislation.



Tim McKinney, NATO Legislative Consultant

Tim began his association with NATO while working in the Government Affairs Department of Brown & Williamson Tobacco Company. He became a NATO legislative consultant in 2005 and continues in that role monitoring legislative activity in 26 states.



The National Association of Tobacco Outlets (NATO) is an association organized to enhance the common business interests of all retailers that sell tobacco products, to support the legislative and regulatory interests of association members, and to encourage the expansion of the retail tobacco segment of the tobacco industry in a responsible and law-abiding manner.

INDUSTRY PANEL MEMBERS



Kyle May, Director of External Relations, Reynolds American

Kyle's career with Reynolds American began in 2012 as a territory manager in North Carolina. He advanced within the company to account manager and senior division manager in Texas and Georgia, before returning to North Carolina for opportunities in external relations. Kyle is part of the team that strategizes and executes advocacy plans, coalition building and legislative strategy.



Ashlie Keener Kuehn, Director of State Government Affairs, ITG Brands

Ashlie joined the ITG Brands in May 2023. Ashlie has 15 years of experience building and managing state government affairs programs for corporate entities. An attorney by trade, Ashlie joined the nicotine wars when she joined JUUL Labs as director of midwestern state government relations.



Robert Smith, Sr. Manager, Regulatory Advocacy, Altria

Robert joined Altria in 2016 and has held various roles within Regulatory Affairs. Robert is currently a member of the regulatory engagement team, where he leads Altria's regulatory advocacy efforts on certain issues.





NEWS & BREWS FEATURED SPEAKER

ELECTION 2024

STATE OF PLAY

with CNN's Scott Jennings

Scott Jennings is the Founding Partner of RunSwitch Public Relations, Kentucky's largest PR and public affairs firm, providing senior-level communications, media relations, and crisis management counsel to clients the world over. Scott's unique ability to analyze data and reconcile it with gut-level political instincts makes him a valuable contributor to clients and to CNN, which made him an on-air Political Contributor in June 2017.

The foundation of Scott's career is journalism. He started over 20 years ago as a reporter and news anchor in Louisville, Kentucky, and writing and broadcasting has underpinned every stop on his path. Today, in addition to his work for CNN, he writes columns for the Los Angeles Times, USA Today, and the Louisville Courier-Journal, among others. Scott has appeared on countless radio and television programs and is one of the most quoted political analysts in the country. Scott is visible on the lecture circuit, delivering briefings to trade associations and corporate boards.

Scott served in four presidential campaigns and in numerous federal and state races. He served in key roles for President George W. Bush's campaigns in 2000 and 2004, before becoming Special Assistant to the President for Political Affairs. Scott's White House portfolio involved political appointments, including roles in confirming two Supreme Court Justices (Roberts and Alito). He advised on the President's domestic travel and briefed the President, Vice-President, and senior-level White House officials. He advised the campaigns of Mitt Romney in 2012 and Jeb Bush in 2016.

