

Holland & Knight

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Holland & Knight Strengthens Florida Government Advocacy Capabilities with Addition of Mike Hightower in Jacksonville

Jacksonville, Fla. (December 6, 2014) – Holland & Knight has expanded its Florida Government Advocacy Team with the addition of veteran healthcare lobbyist Mike Hightower as a senior policy advisor in its Jacksonville office.

"Mike is a longtime friend with a considerable amount of industry knowledge and professional working relationships in both Florida and Washington, D.C.," said Bob Martinez, co-chair of the firm's Florida Government Advocacy Team and former governor of Florida. "He will be an excellent asset to Holland & Knight going into the next legislative session and beyond."

Mr. Hightower, who previously served as vice president of governmental and legislative relations for Florida Blue, will use his healthcare and insurance policy experience to advise the firm's clients in their government relations strategies.

"Anyone who is active in Florida business and politics is aware of Holland & Knight's history and commitment to powerful advocacy," said Mr. Hightower. "I am honored to be joining this extraordinary international law firm and helping its clients to not only successfully achieve their unique legislative and public policy goals, but also to develop profitable business strategies."

During Mr. Hightower's 34-year tenure at Florida Blue, he worked closely with key political leaders in federal, state and local government. Throughout the state, he is well-known for his political leadership, having served as chair or finance chair for more than 580 successful state, local or federal candidates since 1972. Most recently, he served as the state finance chair for Attorney General Pam Bondi and on Gov. Rick Scott's campaign finance committee. Mr. Hightower also served as chair of the Duval County Republican Party from 2003 to 2007.

Throughout his career, Mr. Hightower has been active in several community and civic organizations. He currently holds leadership and board positions with Associated Industries of Florida; Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce's JaxBiz; The Florida College System Foundation; Florida House Embassy in Washington, D.C.; Children's Resources in Miami; and the Florida Governor's Mansion Foundation. Mr. Hightower is the immediate past chair of the Jacksonville Electric, Water and Sewer Authority and is a former chair of the Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce and the US. Naval Academy Board of Visitors.

His record of service has earned him a long list of accolades, including the Florida Federation of Republican Women's Man of the Year (2011, 2013), Florida Association of Professional Lobbyists Chairman's Award (2012), the Learn to Read Literacy Champion Lifetime Award (2011), the Congresswoman Tillie Fowler Lifetime Leadership Achievement Award (2011), and the Tallahassee Lobbying Corp's Outstanding Lobbyist Award (2007).

Holland & Knight's bipartisan [Florida Government Advocacy Team](#) represents clients in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. The team includes Bob Martinez, former governor of Florida; Jim Davis, former U.S. representative; Ron Klein, former U.S. representative; Miguel De Grandy, former Florida representative; Kerry Feehery, former chief of staff to U.S. Sen. George LeMieux; Karl Koch, former chief of staff to Congressman Jim Davis; and Kimberly Case, former legislative affairs director for Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi.

About Holland & Knight LLP: Holland & Knight is a global law firm with more than 1,000 lawyers in 20 U.S. offices as well as Bogotá and Mexico City. The firm is among the largest U.S.-based law firms, providing representation in litigation, business, real estate and governmental law. Interdisciplinary practice groups and industry-based teams provide clients with access to attorneys throughout the firm, regardless of location. www.hklaw.com

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