

Department of Legislative Services Consultant Overview

The Department of Legislative Services recently contracted with the law firm Taft to assist the Sports Wagering Application Review Commission (SWARC) with conducting the request for proposals for the competitive sports wagering licenses. Taft has over 30 gaming industry attorneys with substantial experience delivering innovative, comprehensive legal services to a wide range of clients involved in all aspects of gaming. Taft has experience working as gaming counsel with state governments and their regulatory authorities to draft and advise on gaming legislation, rules, and regulations.

Taft will assist SWARC in establishing a selection process for Class B and mobile license applicants. Specifically, Taft will:

- advise SWARC on best practices for establishing a sports wagering market;
- advise SWARC on the appropriate number of licenses to issue, the optimal location of Class B facilities within the State, and the types of businesses most likely to successfully incorporate sports wagering into their business model and measures to promote diversity in the sports wagering industry;
- work with SWARC to determine the most important factors to consider when establishing a successful and inclusive sports wagering industry;
- assist SWARC in assigning values to each factor to create an objective scoring system for evaluating each application;
- assist SWARC in determining the method for soliciting applications for sports wagering facility licenses and mobile sports wagering licenses, recommend the process to SWARC, and work with SWARC to establish the application process; and
- assist SWARC in determining the most appropriate method to analyze each application, assigning each application a score using the factors established in SWARC's regulations, and evaluating the scores to determine which applicants will receive licenses.

SWARC's two primary contacts with Taft will be Kimberly Copp and Cezar "Cid" Froelich. Kim serves as co-chair of Taft's Gaming Industry Group. She has extensive experience representing cities and states on gaming and sports betting matters including drafting legislation and related regulations, negotiating host community agreements between state and local governments and casino developers, conducting competitive selection processes for gaming opportunities, and negotiating and providing counsel on gaming projects. Cid is a Martindale-Hubbell AV Preeminent-Rated lawyer who helps clients resolve matters regarding corporate finance and securities, gaming and sports betting, mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance, and related concerns.