

Brett Richards, Panelist



Brett is a Special Counsel at Jones Walker LLP, specializing in advising businesses and industry groups with interests, investments, and operations across the Southeast and along the U.S. Gulf Coast. With more than a decade of experience in legislative and political advocacy, he provides counsel on a broad range of emerging legislative and regulatory matters. Brett has served as a key liaison between elected officials, business executives, industry leaders, and community groups, giving him a deep understanding of policy and the regulatory process. His client work spans multiple industries, including defense, aerospace, maritime, and ocean technology. Before joining Jones Walker, Brett served as counsel and senior advisor to Senator Roger F. Wicker of

Mississippi. On Capitol Hill, he focused on a range of issues for the Senate Appropriations; Commerce, Science, and Transportation; Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry; Environment and Public Works; and Judiciary committees. In this role, he developed policy and communications strategies and organized meetings between the senator, business leaders, and federal agencies like the departments of Transportation and Commerce and the Federal Maritime Commission. He also provided policy counsel on issues critical to the citizens of Mississippi, including defense, aerospace, ocean technology, maritime, trade, and economic development.

Brett's career also includes serving as counsel to Mississippi's Fourth Congressional District representative, where he researched and advised on legislation and regulatory concerns related to agriculture, natural resources, healthcare, energy, the environment, and education. Outside of his Capitol Hill experience, Brett was a legal and research analyst for advocacy groups, served on political campaign staffs, and worked as an associate in private practice. He began his legal career as a judicial law clerk for the Mississippi Court of Appeals.