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DATIA RETAINS THE VOGEL GROUP AS GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TEAM

Washington, DC, January 26, 2020 – DATIA is proud to announce that The Vogel Group has been retained as the Government Relations team. The Vogel Group is nationally recognized as a top bipartisan lobbying and advisory firm serving companies, associations, and asset managers around the world. The firm provides strategic counsel and government affairs support in managing, measuring, and capitalizing on government risk. The Vogel Group prides itself on the firm's ability to fully understand their clients' operations and business practices, which enables them to more effectively recommend policy solutions and advocate on the client's behalf.



**The Hill's
2020
Top Lobbyists**

Alex Vogel and Brian Johnson, The Vogel Group

This is a critical year to engage with the new Biden Administration on issues that affect the drug and alcohol testing industry, including imminent changes to government policy around cannabis. On the campaign trail President Biden and Vice President Harris were committed to decriminalizing marijuana, legalizing medical cannabis, and letting states set their own policies.

DATIA will be at the forefront of those policymaking discussions, advocating for more drug testing across the board in addition to a broader, clearer definition of safety-sensitive positions outside of the transportation industry.

In the first quarter of 2021 our engagement strategy includes several key deliverables for DATIA members. The Vogel Group will create and we will distribute a bi-weekly "Washington Update" document, as well as schedule bi-weekly calls with DATIA leadership to discuss developments in Washington. Our engagement strategy also includes:

- Familiarize The Vogel Group team with previous government relations efforts and DATIA membership
- Create a 'DATIA Core Principles' document
- Identify congressional "champions" in both the House and Senate

- Identify career staff at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Department of Transportation (DoT), Office of Drug and Alcohol Policy and Compliance, among others
- Facilitate direct meetings and interactions with congressional and agency officials
- Track and report on ongoing policy developments regarding alcohol and drug testing

The Vogel Group Team:



Alex Vogel is the Chief Executive Officer of The Vogel Group. Alex started the company after a decade leading Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti, one of the most successful lobbying and government affairs firms in Washington, DC. In the years prior to launching Mehlman Vogel Castagnetti Inc., Alex served as Chief Counsel to Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, M.D. Prior, Alex was General Counsel for the National Republican Senatorial Committee (NRSC) and Deputy Counsel for the Republican National Committee (RNC). Alex lives in Upperville, VA with his wife, Virginia State Senator Jill Holtzman Vogel and their six children.



Samir N. Kapadia is a Principal and Chief Operating Officer at The Vogel Group. Having spent a decade in lobbying and business consulting from New York City to Mumbai, Samir has helped some of the largest companies in the world understand how Washington can create risk or drive business growth. With a bipartisan background, his previous policy experience includes serving former Congressman Frank Wolf (R-VA) and Senator Mark Warner (D-VA). At the Vogel Group, Samir also leads the firm's trade practice, advising clients on issues relating to tariffs and supply chain strategy. Samir received his B.A. from Georgetown University and an M.B.A from the McDonough School of Business, Georgetown University. He lives in Washington, D.C. with his fiancé, Sofia Longoria.



Ali Khimji is Director of Policy Research at The Vogel Group. In this capacity, Ali provides corporations, private equity firms, and trade associations with an understanding and analysis of risks and opportunities posed by legislative and regulatory developments across federal and state levels. Ali particularly enjoys assisting private equity transaction teams across all sectors with comprehensive assessments of policy risks impacting investment decisions. Ali received his Bachelor of Science from Penn State University, where he majored in Business Management and Finance.



Tyler Ford is a Senior Associate at The Vogel Group. Tyler served as a Policy Fellow for the Congressional Black Caucus in the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) where he specialized in energy, homeland security, and foreign relations issues. Tyler also served in the Obama Administration at the U.S. Department of Energy working in the offices of Ernest Moniz and Deputy Secretary Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall. At the state level, he served in the offices of North Carolina State Senators Dan Blue and Paul Lowe Jr.



The Vogel Gabby Smith is an Associate at The Vogel Group. Prior to joining The Vogel Group, Gabby worked in fundraising and political operations for the U.S. House of Representatives Majority Whip, Congressman James Clyburn (D-SC), for the U.S. Senate Finance Committee and at Cornerstone Government Affairs. She was also previously a Lead Field Organizer in North Carolina for Mike Bloomberg's 2020 Presidential campaign. Gabby also has experience working at Angerholzer Broz Consulting, a premier political fundraising firm specializing in fundraising and compliance for over twenty Democratic Members of the U.S. House of Representatives.