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# A Legacy of Looking Ahead

Iconic Albany law firm Hinman Straub thrives on a legacy of successful partnerships as it helps clients navigate uncharted territory.

Some law firms prosper on account of their legacy, others from their ability to stay current. Hinman Straub does both. With 87 years to its name, Hinman Straub is Albany's oldest law firm, renowned for representing clients in front of state government and wielding unparalleled expertise in health care law, labor law, education law, litigation, and corporate law.

At no time has Hinman Straub's expertise been more valuable than during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the firm has advised clients on the ever-changing policies, rules, and regulations around vaccines, testing, and personal protective equipment.

"For better or worse, this is our firm's sweet spot," says Josh Poupore, spokesperson for the firm. "Our work during the pandemic has involved all facets of our entire firm, including assisting with policy development, implementation, compliance, and enforcement. This is where we were really able to thrive in helping clients."

## Satisfying All Stakeholders

While few sectors were prepared for the fallout of the pandemic, Hinman Straub's depth of knowledge, solid track record, and relationships with clients, policymakers, and industry leaders proved advantageous. "Our strength is that we have a group of incredibly talented, hardworking, and passionate professionals who not only advise clients on government-related issues, but who also work directly with the government to make sure they understand the full ramifications of any government action," Poupore says.

Take, for example, the issue of vaccine mandates. Ensuring compliance among health care workers demands an appreciation of the



situation on the ground. As mandates rolled out, Hinman Straub was able to work in real time on implementation while suggesting ideas around exceptions, funding opportunities, and compliance timeframes. The firm also communicated changes in the market, posing constructive questions regarding who can work because of vaccine mandates. These conversations involved myriad stakeholders, including hospitals, nursing homes, and health care plans, and Hinman Straub strove to ensure collaboration on this front.

In addition to health care, the firm maintains a strong labor practice for both private employers and municipalities. Again, this expertise was invaluable during the pandemic, the economic impact of which raised issues around paid leave and worker protections. Likewise, the education practice assisted both higher-ed and lower-ed clients with the ever-changing policy decisions. "This was fertile ground for us over the last 30 years," Poupore says. "We were able to tap into the strength of our labor practice to provide

practical guidance and advice throughout the pandemic."

As it enters its 88th year in 2022, Hinman Straub continues to nurture long-standing client relationships as it elevates and inspires fresh talent among its ranks. "During the shutdown, we realized that we are blessed in having such a strong nexus to our clients," Poupore says. "Moreover, by collaborating across specialties and mentoring our younger attorneys, we've been able to nurture the interconnective bond among the entire firm. We believe that, as both the world and Albany have changed, so, too, have we—and we'll continue to grow."

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