



David W. Sweeney

Government Solutions & Administrative Law Practice
Group Leader

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David Sweeney is the go-to legal advisor for navigating the political and governmental landscape of the City of St. Louis, known for shaping public policy through strategic counsel and legislative insight.

David serves as Practice Group Leader for the Government Solutions & Administrative Law practice group. As the former chief legal counsel for the St. Louis Board of Aldermen, David has extensive experience handling government-related legal matters. While at the Board of Aldermen, David provided a broad range of legal services, including drafting ordinances, counseling government employees on budgetary issues, and advising employees on legal issues, among other responsibilities.

In his private practice, David focuses on lobbying, governmental and finance matters; municipal and public law; government affairs; zoning, land use, tax increment financing, community improvement districts, and other development incentives. His experience ranges from drafting and overseeing implementation of legislation regarding tax increment financing, community improvement districts, special business districts, transportation development districts, property tax abatements, street and alley vacations, zoning and land use matters.

Additionally, David has helped clients in a variety of sectors—including professional sports teams, real estate development, manufacturing, public safety, cannabis, higher education institutions, startups, transportation, telecommunications, technology, energy, non-profits, commissions, and associations—develop and implement winning lobbying strategies using innovative, pragmatic approaches to affect the formation of public policy in the St. Louis region.

David has extensive experience in advising clients regarding issues surrounding government procurement law and regulation at the municipal and local level. He has experience leveraging relationships within municipal government to help clients successfully respond to government bid requests. David helps clients navigate local government and various agencies in regards to permitting and business licenses. He also assists clients with acquiring disadvantaged business certification (MBE/WBE) from certifying government entities.

Services

- Municipal Law, Zoning & Finance
- Public Finance
- Real Estate
- Opportunity Zones
- Veteran, Women, and Minority-Owned Business Enterprises
- Government Contracting and Procurement

David was selected by his peers for inclusion in *Best Lawyers*® for 2025-2026.

Education

- Saint Louis University School of Law (J.D., 2004)
 - Notes and Comments Editor, *Saint Louis University Public Law Review*
 - Legal Research & Writing Assistant
- Truman State University (Master of Arts in Education, 1996)
 - Special Education
- Truman State University (B.S., 1996)
 - Psychology

Legal Background

- Of Counsel, Lathrop & Gage (2015-2017)
- Legal Counsel, St. Louis Board of Aldermen (2008-2015)
- General Counsel to President, St. Louis Board of Aldermen (2007-2008)
- Associate, McGlynn & Luther (2005-2007)
- Law Clerk, Simon & Passanante, PC (2003-2004)

Professional Affiliations

- Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis
- Mound City Bar Association
- Missouri Municipal Attorneys Association
- Missouri Municipal League
- Registered Missouri Lobbyist

Admissions

- Missouri Bar
- Illinois Bar

Charitable & Civic Involvement

- Board of Directors, St. Louis Public Library
- Member, St. Louis Sports Commission
- Missouri Advisory Committee, U.S. Global Leadership Coalition
- Board of Governors, Missouri Athletic Club
- Board Member, Heat-Up St. Louis
- Former Council Member, Jewish Community Relations Council of St. Louis (JCRC)
- Former Board Member, St. Louis Police Athletic League (PAL)
- Former Chairman, Downtown St. Louis, Inc.
- Former Board Member, Central Reform Congregation

Firm Committees

- Member, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee

Honors & Awards

- *Best Lawyers®*, 2025-2026
 - Power List for Lawyer-Lobbyists, 2021-2023
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News

March 27, 2026

David W. Sweeney Secures Legislative Victory for American Car Rental Association at St. Louis Lambert International Airport

March 19, 2026

Lewis Rice Attorneys Secure Approval for New 7 Brew Coffee Development in St. Louis

January 26, 2026

Lewis Rice Advises on \$3 Billion Armory Innovation District

November 13, 2025

David W. Sweeney Featured in Missouri Lawyers Media's Legal Limelight

November 3, 2025

Lewis Rice Member David W. Sweeney Honored with 2025 James T. Britt Memorial Award

October 22, 2025

Lewis Rice Provides Real Estate and Lobbying Services for New Harris House Expansion

August 22, 2025

Celebrating our 2026 Best Lawyers®, 'Lawyers of the Year' and 'Ones to Watch'

July 10, 2025

St. Louis Business Journal Recognizes David W. Sweeney for Legal Role in South St. Louis Redevelopment

July 10, 2025

Lewis Rice Attorneys Advise on Major Central West End Project

October 23, 2024

Lewis Rice Announces New Practice Group Leaders

September 4, 2024

Lewis Rice Attorneys Secure New 30-Year Agreement for Forest Park Forever

August 15, 2024

Congratulations to our 2025 Best Lawyers®, 'Lawyers of the Year' and 'Ones to

Watch'

March 18, 2024

David W. Sweeney Discusses Guaranteed City Income with The McGraw Show

February 9, 2023

David W. Sweeney Quoted on Development Incentive Reform Bill

February 3, 2023

David W. Sweeney Successfully Lobbies for AK St. Louis Owner, LLC for Real Estate Incentives on a 30-Story Apartment Tower in CWE

January 13, 2023

David W. Sweeney Named to Missouri's 2023 POWER List for Lawyer-Lobbyists by Missouri Lawyers Media

November 19, 2022

David W. Sweeney Represents Developers in North St. Louis Marina Project

November 7, 2022

David W. Sweeney Represents Green Street Real Estate Ventures in Armory Project

October 25, 2022

David W. Sweeney, Griffin A. Lowry Represent 4 Hands Brewing Co. in Obtaining Tax Abatement and Establishing Community Improvement District in Enhanced Enterprise Zone

June 29, 2022

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer Seeking Real Estate Incentives for Residential Project in City of St. Louis

February 1, 2022

David W. Sweeney Named to Missouri's 2022 POWER List for Lawyer-Lobbyists by Missouri Lawyers Media

September 21, 2021

David W. Sweeney Represents Advantes Group in \$7.2 Million Apartment Project

February 10, 2021

David W. Sweeney Interviewed in Realtime REALTOR® Podcast on Changes to Elections in the City of St. Louis

January 25, 2021

David W. Sweeney Named to Missouri's POWER List for Lawyer-Lobbyists by Missouri Lawyers Media

December 16, 2020

David W. Sweeney Represents Investor for Renovation of Downtown St. Louis Apartments

December 4, 2020

David W. Sweeney Lobbies for Alterra Worldwide and Its Renovation of Jefferson Arms Building

October 15, 2020

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer in \$84 Million Project on Delmar Boulevard

August 26, 2020

David W. Sweeney Represents Development Team for \$77 Million Apartment Project in Bevo Mill

June 17, 2020

Lobbyist David W. Sweeney's Client Selected as Provider for Police Body Cameras, Could be Implemented by end of July

January 27, 2020

Lewis Rice Assists Justice Grown in Winning Eight Additional Missouri Medical Cannabis Licenses

November 26, 2019

David W. Sweeney and Sonette T. Magnus Featured on AGCMO's Podcast

November 19, 2019

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer of Apartment Project on Laclede's Landing

October 14, 2019

David W. Sweeney, Sonette T. Magnus Selected Lobbyists for Airport Privatization Bid

August 17, 2019

David W. Sweeney Featured in "Who Won the Week" by *Missouri Scout*

July 1, 2019

David W. Sweeney Represents Advantes in Multifamily Redevelopment Project in Ellendale

January 14, 2019

David W. Sweeney and R. John Klevorn, III Represent Gross Mechanical in Acquisition of Pipe Systems Mechanical and Duct Systems

October 22, 2018

David W. Sweeney Tapped for Zoning Work on New Luxury Car Wash in The Hill

September 19, 2018

David W. Sweeney and Sonette T. Magnus Represent Macquarie Group in Privatization Talks for St. Louis Lambert International Airport

July 24, 2018

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer in \$3.7 Million Renovation in Tower Grove South

July 5, 2018

David W. Sweeney Represents Missouri Terrazzo Co. in Warehouse Purchase on The Hill

June 27, 2018

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer in \$4.1 million Mixed Use Development

June 12, 2018

David W. Sweeney Selected by FOCUS St. Louis for 2018-2019 Leadership St. Louis Class

December 22, 2017

David W. Sweeney Represents Developer of Apartments and Office Space on Laclede's Landing

November 10, 2017

David W. Sweeney Represents Apartment Developer in Tower Grove South

October 2, 2017

David W. Sweeney Tapped to Lobby for Privatization of St. Louis Lambert International Airport

March 6, 2017

David W. Sweeney Represents The Sansone Group and Draper and Kramer Inc. in Real Estate Deal

February 17, 2017

David W. Sweeney Featured in "Who Won the Week" by Missouri Scout

February 13, 2017

David W. Sweeney Joins Lewis Rice

December 12, 2016

David W. Sweeney Reported on Progress of Sale of Mike Shannon's Restaurant

December 5, 2016

***This Week in Missouri Politics* Hosts David W. Sweeney for Panel Discussion**

November 30, 2016

David W. Sweeney Consulted in Mike Shannon's Dispute with Cardinals

November 15, 2016

David W. Sweeney Offers Commentary on Funding for Armory Building

April 4, 2016

David W. Sweeney Featured in *St. Louis Business Journal* as "St. Louis Character"