

Advocacy Leaders Learn About Oklahoma's Small Business Landscape

By Emily Mantz, Confidential Assistant

Chief Counsel for Advocacy Winslow Sargeant recently traveled to Oklahoma City with Region XI Advocate Caitlin Cain to host regulatory roundtables and meet with small businesses. I2E (Innovation to Enterprise) and OCAST (Oklahoma Center for the Advancement of Science and Technology) hosted a large gathering of small businesses to discuss with Chief Counsel Sargeant their big ideas, best practices and barriers for keeping a small business up and running.

While in Oklahoma, Sargeant also visited HSI Sensing in Chickasha to hear the successes and challenges of running a technology-focused business in a small town. With 200 employees, HSI Sensing was named Oklahoma's 2013 Family Owned Business of the Year by the Small Business Administration and is a leader in the engineering, design and precision manufacturing of custom reed switch and sensor technology. They export around 30 percent of their

products. One of the main barriers in growing their business is maintaining a well-educated workforce and getting well-trained engineers to move to such a rural community.

Finally, the Oklahoma Department of Commerce (ODC) hosted two roundtables for the Office of Advocacy. In addition, ODC gathered together multiple businesses to discuss international trade. Sargeant received positive feedback for his international trade initiative at this roundtable. Many businesses were happy to share with Advocacy the ups and downs of vetting overseas customers, predicting exchange rates and understanding other cultures well enough to be able to have business dealings with them.

"When you are venturing into trade and exporting, you do not know who you are selling to or whether or not you are partnering with a credible customer. The Oklahoma Department of Commerce has worked hard to

Continued on page 2

In This Issue

Regional News

Advocacy Leaders Learn About Oklahoma Small Businesses . . . 1

Staff News

Christine Kymn Appointed Chief Economist and OER Director 2

Tayyaba Waqar Joins Advocacy as Assistant Chief Counsel . . . 2

Message from the Chief Counsel

Leaving Advocacy in the New Year 3

Regulatory News

Clean Water Act 3

Sanitary Food Transportation . . 4

"Injurious" Snakes 4

Movie Theater Captioning . . . 4

CFPB Regulation 4



Chief Counsel for Advocacy Winslow Sargeant and Region XI Advocate Caitlin Cain meet with small business representatives at a roundtable in Oklahoma City.

Staff News

Christine Kymn Appointed Chief Economist and Director, Office of Economic Research

In August, Christine Kymn was appointed chief economist and director of Advocacy's Office of Economic Research. Kymn joined Advocacy in April 2012 as a regulatory economist.

Kymn's credentials uniquely suit her for Advocacy's work. Kymn previously served as a policy analyst at the Office of Management and Budget's Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA). There she specialized in environmental air, toxic chemical, and energy regulations, analyzing estimated costs and benefits. She participated in small business advocacy review panels for certain environmental regulations.

Kymn received her Ph.D. in economics from George Mason

University (GMU) in January 2006 and her law degree from George Mason's School of Law in May 2006. Kymn is also a teacher; she taught economics at Washington and Lee University and was a visiting professor for a year at GMU Law School. She has also worked for the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics and a benefits consulting company. She is a volunteer and a student board member for the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center. Kymn can be reached at (202) 205-6972 or Christine.Kymn@sba.gov.



Christine Kymn, chief economist and director of Advocacy's Office of Economic Research.

Tayyaba Waqar Joins Advocacy as Assistant Chief Counsel

In July, Tayyaba Waqar joined Advocacy as assistant chief counsel working on Interagency's environmental team. She brings hands-on



Tayyaba Waqar, Advocacy's new assistant chief counsel.

expertise with regulations under the major environmental laws, including the Toxic Substances Control Act, Clean Air Act, and Clean Water Act. Her private sector background includes working for the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB). At NAHB, she filed comments and managed technical assistance programs on such key environmental issues as formaldehyde emissions, air pollutants, and energy efficiency standards. Her government expertise includes working as a legal assistant with the Department of Justice's Office of the Solicitor General and as a law clerk at EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality.

Waqar received her law degree from Washington and Lee University's School of Law, and she is a candidate for the Master of Laws in Environmental Law from the George Washington University Law School (expected December

2014). She received her bachelor of science in psychology from Virginia Commonwealth University, with a minor in biology. Waqar can be reached at (202) 205-6790 or Tayyaba.Waqar@sba.gov.

Oklahoma Small Businesses, from page 1.

share its successes regarding who you should work with and helping you understand taxes and culture," Sargeant said.

The second roundtable was held to discuss alternative sources of capital. Many of the small entities present at the discussion expressed that the main alternative source they are excited about is crowd-funding.

Message from the Chief Counsel

Leaving Advocacy in the New Year

By Dr. Winslow Sargeant, Chief Counsel for Advocacy

Last month, I announced my departure from the Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy. After four years with this office, I will be leaving to spend more time with my family.

Throughout my time with Advocacy, I was proud to serve as the nation's independent voice representing small businesses before Congress, the White House and federal agencies. From meeting with business owners and entrepreneurs to organizing regulatory roundtables, America's small businesses have a team of professionals working around the clock to ensure their voice is heard throughout the complex regulatory process. We also help decision makers understand the unique needs of small businesses through valuable research.

Besides working with the great

team at the Office of Advocacy, I was also introduced to many groups and small business organizations that are constantly striving to make the economic landscape better for our nation's small businesses and entrepreneurs. It was a pleasure getting to know these advocates and it is reassuring to know that small businesses have many different networks and avenues for support.

Small businesses deserve an ardent voice and strong leadership. To ensure that the Administration has the much-needed time to find a suitable replacement, I will not be leaving my position until 2015. Advocacy will remain one of the most memorable parts of my career and I will never forget my experience. Though my leaving Advocacy is bittersweet, I know the team in place will continue to keep a keen



Dr. Winslow Sargeant, chief counsel for Advocacy.

eye on the target for our nation's small businesses.

Regulatory News

EPA, Corps Rules Would Redefine Scope of Waters Subject to the Clean Water Act

Recently, the Office of Advocacy held two environmental roundtables to discuss rules proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). The proposed rules redefine the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act (CWA), and would set forth several categories of waters to be included in the definition as well as establish waters that are subject to the act.

Under the proposal, decisions regarding whether a body of water is subject to the CWA will affect small entities which will need to determine whether their activities require authorization and/or

permits under the CWA. Under the regulations, the term "waters of the United States" would mean: (1) All waters which are currently used, were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide; (2) all interstate waters, including interstate wetlands; (3) the territorial seas; (4) all impoundments of waters as specifically identified in the rule; (5) all tributaries of waters as specifically identified in the rule; (6) all waters, including wetlands, adjacent to a water specifically identified in the rule; and (7) on a case-specific basis, other waters, including wetlands, provided that those waters alone, or in combination with other similarly situated waters, including wetlands, located

in the same region, have a significant nexus to a water specifically identified in the rule.

Waters that do not meet this definition are not subject to the CWA. There are several programs under the CWA that would be affected by this proposed rule including but not limited to Section 311, oil spill prevention programs; Section 402, which requires permits for pollutant discharges; and Section 404, which covers permits for the placement of dredged or fill material in waters of the United States.

In June, Advocacy sent a comment letter to EPA and the Corps requesting that they extend the comment period for the proposed rules. Subsequently, the comment period was extended to October 20, 2014. More information on the proposed

Continued on page 4

Regulatory News, from page 3

rules can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/PpJw>. For additional information, contact Assistant Chief Counsel Kia Dennis at (202) 205-6936 or Kia.Dennis@sba.gov.

FDA Rule Concerns Sanitary Transport of Food

On July 21, 2014, Advocacy sent a comment letter to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concerning a proposed rule on the sanitary transportation of human and animal food. The comment letter can be accessed at <http://go.usa.gov/PKzT>. For more information, contact Assistant Chief Counsel Linwood Rayford at (202) 205-6533 or Linwood.Rayford@sba.gov.

FWS Rule Would List Snakes as “Injurious”

On July 10, 2014, Advocacy sent a comment letter to the Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and

Wildlife Service (FWS) concerning a proposal to list five species of snakes as injurious reptiles under the Lacey Act (the reticulated python, the boa constrictor and three anaconda species). The comment letter can be accessed at <http://go.usa.gov/PKuB>. For more information, contact Assistant Chief Counsel Kia Dennis at (202) 205-6936 or Kia.Dennis@sba.gov.

DOJ Proposes Rule Requiring Captioning for Movie Theaters

On August 1, 2014, the Department of Justice (DOJ) released a proposed rule under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to require movie theaters to show movies with closed captioning and audio description for all movie showings (if produced or distributed with this capability) unless to do so would result in an undue burden or a fundamental alteration. Comments are due by September 30, 2014. The proposed

rule can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/PpmY>. For more information, contact Assistant Chief Counsel Janis Reyes at (202) 205-6533 or Janis.Reyes@sba.gov.

CFPB Proposes to Amend Regulation C

On July 24, 2014, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) published a proposed rule that would amend Regulation C to implement amendments to the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act (HMDA) made by section 1094 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (Dodd-Frank Act). The proposal would add several new reporting requirements and clarify several existing requirements. Comments are due by October 22, 2014. The proposed rule can be found at <http://go.usa.gov/Ppmw>. For more information, contact Jennifer Smith at (202) 205-6943 or Jennifer.Smith@sba.gov.

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