

# James A. Pepper

## **EDUCATION:**

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**Vermont Law School**, South Royalton, VT, *Class of 2014*

- J.D., magna cum laude
- Production Coordinator and Staff Editor for Vermont Law Review, Excellence Award
- Academic Excellence Award for highest overall grade in Representing Entrepreneurial Business
- Law clerk at the following organizations: **Green Mountain Care Board; Office of the Vermont Attorney General; Tarrant, Gillies, Merriman & Richardson; Committee for Public Counsel Services; Vermont Supreme Court; Office of the New York Attorney General**

**Johns Hopkins University**, Baltimore, MD

*B.A. Political Science, 2007*

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:**

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**Cannabis Control Board, Montpelier, VT**

*Chair (2021 – present)*

- Led a three-member Board that developed all aspects of Vermont's regulated cannabis market
- Oversaw the creation and growth of a new state agency that currently employs 25 FTEs
- Managed Board's complex legislative initiatives, rulemaking processes, and public relations
- Coordinated state and federal agencies on various cross-jurisdictional cannabis projects

**Department of State's Attorneys and Sheriffs, Montpelier, VT**

*Deputy State's Attorney (2017 – 2021)*

- Represented the State's Attorneys in the legislature regarding all criminal justice-related initiatives
- Worked collaboratively with Administration officials to implement youthful offender and juvenile jurisdiction expansion, CHINS reform, Justice Reinvestment, and expungement expansion
- Served as Public Records Officer for all 14 State's Attorney Offices, Secretary to Sentencing Commission, and Department designee to Racial Disparities Advisory Panel, CHINS Reform Advisory Panel, and Juvenile Justice Advisory Panel
- Argued 16 cases in the Vermont Supreme Court
- Completed Drug Recognition Expert course and field certification

**Office of the Governor, Montpelier, VT**

*Director of Intergovernmental Affairs and Policy Advisor (2015 – 2017)*

- Developed and implemented legislative action plans regarding marijuana legalization, paid sick leave, independent contractors, and education reform
- Managed cabinet members, drafted op-eds, and worked with stakeholders to build support for Governor's priorities

**SunCommon, Waterbury Center, VT**

*Solar Counsel (2014 – 2015)*

- Provided legal counsel for every aspect of the Community Solar Program including land acquisition, community outreach, interaction with the Public Utility Commission, and permitting

**Democratic National Committee, Washington DC**

*Deputy Finance Director - Tri-State (New York, New Jersey, Connecticut) (2009 – 2011)*

- Directed all levels of fundraising events with President, Vice President, and White House surrogates

## **PERSONAL ACTIVITIES:**

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- Family chef-in-chief, cross-country skiing, biking, listening to stories from my five-year-old twins