

Jonathan A. McGowan

5 N 17th Ave #401
 Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250

(904)982-1330
 jon@softsandconsulting.com

EDUCATION

- Florida State University College of Law** Tallahassee, FL
 Juris Doctor Candidate, May 2021
 Activities: Business Law Society, Phi Alpha Delta, Student Bar Association
- University of Iowa College of Law** Iowa City, IA
 London Law Program, London, UK, January 2020
 Course of study: Comparative Corporate Governance
- University of Oxford** Oxford, England
 FSU Summer Program in Law, Summer 2019
 Courses of study: Comparative Contract Law, English Legal History, European Union Law
- University of Florida** Gainesville, FL
 Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Arts, Political Science, December 2006
- Florida Community College of Jacksonville** Jacksonville, FL
 Associate of Arts, December 2002

LEGAL EXPERIENCE

- City of Jacksonville, Office of General Counsel** Jacksonville, FL
 May - June 2019

WORK EXPERIENCE

- President/ Event Production, Government Relations, Media Relations** Jacksonville, FL
 Better Jacksonville Beach 2013 - Present
- Founder of 501c3 focused on improving the image of the Jacksonville Beach Downtown through community building events
 - Work with board of directors for long term vision and strategy
 - Develop contacts with local media to obtain earned media for organization. Appeared on First Coast Connect, Action News, News 4 Jax, First Coast News, Good Morning Jacksonville, and others to speak about Better Jacksonville Beach and the Jacksonville Beach Downtown. Regularly featured in the Beaches Leader and the Florida Times Union.
 - Organizer of the monthly Jax Beach Art Walk which requires management of over 1,000 artists, in excess of 100 participating monthly, and thousands of attendees. Voted Best Arts Market in Folio Weekly's 2019 "Best of the Beaches." Organizer of the monthly Jax Beach Classic Car Cruise.
 - Work to increase community awareness of organization by speaking at various community organizations, clubs, and government meetings.
- President** Jacksonville, FL
 Soft Sand Consulting 2003 – Present
- Work as independent consultant for events and campaigns throughout Northeast and North Central Florida regions. Responsibilities include strategy, networking, promoting candidate or issue, public speaking, fundraising, media relations, and volunteer recruitment and management.

President/ Director of Corporate Partnerships and Government Relations Jacksonville, FL
Shooting and Outdoor Convention 2014 – 2018

- Managed all aspects of event production including facility rental, structure and layout, speaker schedule, ticket sales, contract negotiations, and strategic partnerships.
- Sought out corporate sponsorships and developed strategic relationships with other companies to facilitate the success of the event.
- Worked with local, regional, and international media for earned and paid media for the event.

Talk Show Host/ Radio Personality Jacksonville, FL
Straight Shooting w/ Jon McGowan on AM 600/ FM 102.3 2013 – 2015

Owner/ Manager Jacksonville, FL
McGowan Firearms 2009 – 2015

LEADERSHIP/ ACTIVITIES

Tallahassee Bar Association
Member, 2018 – Present
Young Lawyers Division, member, 2018 - Present

Jacksonville Bar Association
Member, 2018 – Present

The Beaches Leader
Columnist providing insights on the Florida Legislature and local government, 2017 - Present

City of Jacksonville
Taxation, Revenue and Utilization of Expenditures "TRUE" Commission
Appointed by Council President Anna Brosche, February 2018 – November 2018
Reappointed by Council President Aaron Bowman, November 2018 – June 2021
Duval County Elections Advisory Panel
Appointed by Mayor Lenny Curry, July 2017 – April 2019
Vice Chair, June 2018 – August 2019

WJCT 89.9 FM NPR
Contributor to "First Coast Connect" Weekly Roundup segment on local politics, 2018

City of Jacksonville Beach Police Department
Citizen Police Academy, 2017

Office of Mayor-elect Lenny Curry
Streamlining for Growth & Opportunity Committee Member, 2015

Jacksonville Regional Chamber of Commerce
Government Affairs Standing Committee: Member, 2007 – 2009
JaxBiz: Member, 2008 – 2009
South Council: Member, 2008 – 2009
IMPACTjax: Governmental Affairs Committee Chair, 2008
IMPACTjax: Voice Committee Co-Chair, 2007

First Coast Tiger Bay Club
Board Member, 2009
Member, 2007 - 2009

Beaches Business Association, Member, 2007 – 2012, Featured speaker, July 2017

Jacksonville Beach Gator Club, Member, 2007 - 2014

ADDITIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Life, Health, and Variable Annuity License 2-15, February 2005

Jacksonville, FL

Real Estate Sales Associate License, March 2005

Jacksonville, FL

National Rifle Association, Certified Firearms Instructor, January 2009

Fairfax, VA

AWARDS

Jacksonville Beach Wavemaker Award

Presented by Mayor Charlie Latham for outstanding community service, July 2016