

# DECOTIIS, FITZPATRICK & COLE, LLP

## GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY

**THE DECOTIIS GOVERNMENT AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS PRACTICE IS BASED OUT OF OUR TEANECK OFFICE** – The practice is devoted to providing strategic New Jersey government advocacy for a wide spectrum of clients. Our unparalleled government-related regulatory and lobbying practice arises from a combination of longstanding relationships and firsthand knowledge. Not only do we have relationships throughout New Jersey government, but we also have a deep understanding of the customs, processes and rules by which government operates. We know what works – and what doesn't.

DeCotiis has among its attorneys numerous former high-level government officials. Three of our partners, M. Robert DeCotiis, Michael R. Cole and Michael R. DeCotiis, have served as Chief Counsel to Governors of New Jersey. The Firm's roster also includes a former special U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations (Alfred C. DeCotiis), a former County Executive (William P. Schuber) and numerous other attorneys who have previously served in senior positions in state and local government. For example, one of our partners, William Harla, worked in two Governors' Offices and oversaw regulatory matters for the Attorney General.

Members of our team utilize their unmatched knowledge of the workings of government when advocating on behalf of clients. Our goal is to insure that our clients' positions are clearly and persuasively represented to the right government body, in the right way, to help advance important strategic objectives. Our wealth of experience gives us a unique know-how in representing and advancing the interests of our clients in legislative and administrative arenas.

We have assisted many governmental clients and private entities on issues before the State Legislature. This work includes strategic planning, messaging and communications, and advocacy. Our attorneys have helped author numerous significant New Jersey acts and statutes. It is not uncommon for us to help clients navigate a statute we had a hand in drafting, such as the legislation merging the New Jersey Turnpike and the Garden State Parkway. Our attorneys possess substantial experience in addressing regulatory issues before a wide range of state departments, including Law and Public Safety and its

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Professional Boards, Environmental Protection, Treasury, Transportation, Insurance and Banking, and Community Affairs. We have sought and achieved legislative, rulemaking, regulatory and permitting changes and informal agency actions on behalf of many clients, from large corporations to charitable organizations to public interest groups.

Lobbying and government relations have evolved in recent years into very specialized practices, requiring hands-on experience and detailed knowledge of governmental structures and processes. Our attorneys are accustomed to working with and are well recognized by government agencies at all levels - municipal, county, state and Federal. Furthermore, we continuously work to strengthen and expand those relationships, as well as staying up-to-date on both current and potential legislation and rulings that could affect our clients' interests. Our expertise has made the complex, often arduous process of interacting with public bodies a simpler and more successful experience for our clients.

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