

# Amy Elizabeth Praeger

Tel: 972.755.9141 ♦ Cell: 703-899-2029 ♦ Email: [aepraeger@gmail.com](mailto:aepraeger@gmail.com)

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- ♦ An energetic professional experienced in government relations, public affairs, law, and professional responsibility.
  - ♦ Advocate and liaison with a proven track record representing small and medium sized businesses, trade associations, coalitions, and government agencies.
  - ♦ Excellent written, verbal, and interpersonal communicator who forges relationships among stakeholders and performing well both independently and as a team member.
  - ♦ Demonstrated success in advocacy, public policy, politics, and business development.

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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

### ♦ Public Affairs/Public Relations:

- Industry Advocacy
- Political Strategy
- Strategic Media Relations
- Issue Papers & Press Releases
- Presentation Development
- Proposals & Grant Writing

### ♦ Legal Counsel

### ♦ Not-for-Profit Organizations:

- Trade Associations
- Issue Advocacy
- Grassroots Organization
- Coalition Development
- Fundraising
- Grant Writing

### ♦ Corporate Relations

- Regulatory Affairs
- Business Development

### ♦ Government Relations:

- Legislation
  - Research, Drafting & Analysis
- Legislative Testimony
- Budget and Appropriations
- Direct Lobbying & Political Consulting
- Public Policy
- Political Action Committees

### ♦ Professional Responsibility

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## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### **Public Affairs & Government Relations Consultant**/Washington, DC & Kansas City, KS

January 2011 – Present

- Assist individuals and companies with developing public advocacy and legislative strategies, including issue papers and presentations; conduct research; analyze statistics and budget data; and recommend grassroots strategies.
- Study the objectives, promotional policies, and needs of organizations to develop public relations and government affairs strategies that will influence public opinion or promote ideas, products or services. Advise clients on business development opportunities.
- Establish and maintain cooperative relationships with representatives of community, consumer, employee, and public interest groups. Work with other public relations/government affairs professionals to identify trends or key group interests or concerns.
- Examples include:
  - Formulated legislative strategies and public policy campaigns for a national debt recovery firm.
  - Served as an expert consultant for a start-up trade association; including recommendations for staffing, membership recruitment, budget, legislative strategy, grassroots outreach, and public promotion.
  - Served as an expert advisor to a group of industry subcontractors to develop a new trade association.
  - Developed presentation, corporate sponsor recognition, and exhibit formats for a national trade association's annual convention (attendance at 5000+). Secured over \$150k in direct corporate sponsorships & gift donations.

### **Vice President of Legislative Affairs**/ American Shipbuilding Association/ Washington, DC

August 2002 – December 2010

- Duties included drafting legislation, composing position papers, correspondence to Members of Congress and industry representatives, in addition to analyzing legislation and reports.
- Drafted annual programmatic and policy requests, and submitted all fiscal year recommendations and supporting documentation to Congress and Executive Branch.
- Assisted in drafting the Association President's testimony to congressional committees. Summarized committee hearings, drafted questions for committee members, and wrote statements for the record.
- Met with Members of Congress, committee, and personal staff in support of legislative initiatives. Conducted in-depth research for the Legislative and Executive Branches, military officials, and the private sector.

- Legislative successes include: amending the U.S. Tax Code to create an equitable taxation formula for U.S. shipyards building naval ships; securing a reporting requirement in the FY 2008 and FY 2010 House Defense Appropriations Bill requiring the Department of Defense to develop a plan to phase out the use of foreign-built ships in favor of U.S.-built ships; securing appropriations in fiscal years 2003 (\$25 million), 2008 (\$5 million), 2009 (\$48 million), and 2010 (\$35 million) to assist with commercial construction; and defeated legislation to waive U.S. domestic source requirements.
- Composed press releases and monthly newsletters reporting on issues of importance to the industry.
- Managed the nationwide grassroots program. This included composing the monthly online newsletter, drafting action alert letters to Congress, and creating promotional materials.
- Testified before the U.S. China Economic and Security Review Commission during its 2005 session.
- Conducted comprehensive research and wrote reports on China and Russia's defense industries and projected implication to U.S. national security. These reports were utilized as an authoritative source for America's foreign intelligence services, Members of Congress and U.S. media outlets.

**Legislative Assistant & Legal Counsel/** Office of Representative Jerry Moran, First District of Kansas/ Washington, DC

August 2000 – August 2002

- Responsible for issues relating to the judiciary, law enforcement, tax, the federal budget, foreign policy, terrorism, defense, and small business. Duties included briefing and advising the Representative on legislation and policies; formulating legislative strategies; drafting legislation; soliciting co-sponsors; and working with the committees of jurisdiction.
- Among the bills drafted for and introduced by the Member included legislation to revise the rules under the Military Survivor Benefit Plan; a bill requiring the U.S. Attorney General and Federal Trade Commission to issue guidelines relating to mergers by wholesale purchasers of livestock and unprocessed agriculture commodities; and legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Service Code to increase the unified credit against gift taxes.
- Drafted speeches and correspondence for the Congressman to constituents, in addition to drafting professional letters for the Member to other Members of Congress and the Executive Branch.
- Instructor for the February 2001 tax legislation seminar for the Kansas Continuing Legal Education Program.
- Organized a field hearing regarding the production and trafficking of methamphetamine in the state. The hearing was jointly hosted by the Congressman and Director of the Drug Enforcement Agency, and attended by the Director of the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, state sheriffs, chiefs of police, and county prosecutors.
- Assisted state law enforcement agencies in obtaining federal grants to combat methamphetamine production, trafficking, and hazardous material clean-up for rural areas, in addition to working with state and county agencies to apply for federal grants to fund rural domestic violence shelters.

**Assistant City Attorney/** City of Wichita/ Wichita, KS

January 2000 – August 2000

- Duties involved the litigation of bench and jury trials in municipal and District Court.
- Responsible for the daily preparation of the Traffic Docket.
- Researched criminal and traffic ordinances, and drafted recommendations to ensure compliance with state statutes and State Supreme Court rulings.
- Oversaw the Attorney Disposition Docket for attorneys to dispose of cases via plea bargain.
- Served as the prosecutor on call during open office hours in which citizens could discuss traffic violations. Disposition of these cases helped to reduced the number of traffic cases set for arraignment and relieved congestion from the trial docket.

**EDUCATION & BAR ADMISSION**

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*Juris Doctor*, Washburn School of Law, Topeka, KS, May 1999

Admitted to the State of Kansas Bar, July 1999

*Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, cum laude*, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, May 1996

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