



**Sara Gonso Tait**, *Partner, Public Affairs Office*, Ice Miller, LLP.

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Sara Gonso Tait is a partner in the Public Affairs Group at Ice Miller, LLP. Sara's practice focuses on gaming regulatory and compliance matters and other regulated industries including crypto currency, cannabis, and alcohol. Prior to joining Ice Miller, Sara served as Executive Director of the Indiana Gaming Commission, where she was the chief regulator of Indiana's 13 casinos, an industry that brings in more than \$500 million in tax revenues each year (Indiana's fourth largest source of revenue) and employs over 12,000 people. Appointed in June of 2015 and reappointed by Governor Eric Holcomb in 2017, Sara managed an agency budget of \$29 million and oversaw 240 Indiana Gaming Commission employees, including two police divisions. The agency also regulates a \$375M charity gaming industry and boxing and mixed martial arts.

During Sara's tenure, the gaming industry saw significant modernization, growth, consolidation, and investment, all of which Sara successfully oversaw and implemented. Sara's culture of high performance, while upholding strong regulatory standards and meeting the demands of statute, led to a progressive and favorable regulatory market. Her responsibilities included overseeing land-based casino openings, implementing new legislation, and introducing paid fantasy sports and cashless wagering. Most significantly, during Sara's leadership, Indiana created a nationally recognized regulatory approach for sports betting and launched on a tight timeline. Sara's progressive approach has resulted in an already booming sports betting market.

Sara accepted a staff attorney position with the Indiana Gaming Commission in 2011 and was quickly promoted to Director of License Control, charged with combating illegal gambling operations. She was promoted to the agency's top legal position in 2014, serving as Chief Legal Counsel until her appointment as Executive Director.

Sara was born and raised in Indianapolis. She attended North Central High School where she was a State Champion diver and is an inductee to the Indiana Swimming and Diving Hall of Fame. Sara continued her diving career at Miami University (Ohio) where she was a scholarship athlete. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology. Sara attended the Robert H. McKinney School of Law in Indianapolis where she graduated in 2010. Prior to attending law school, Sara worked in Washington Township School District with special needs children and was the head coach for North Central's diving team. Sara and her husband, Matt, live in Indianapolis and are the proud parents of young children, Madeline, Elliott and Charlotte.