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March 1, 2023

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Kelley Cawthorne Gains Official Ohio Presence After Merger with Leading Columbus Lobby Firm

Meeting the national trend of consolidation amongst governmental affairs firms, Ohio's Thomas P. Pappas & Associates and Michigan's Kelley Cawthorne join forces to create the Midwest's leading multistate lobbying firm

LANSING, MICH – The Michigan-based Kelley Cawthorne lobbying firm today announced its merger with Thomas P. Pappas & Associates, a Columbus-based lobbying firm with a major presence at the Ohio Statehouse, creating the leading Midwest-based multistate advocacy firm.

“National trends are pointing to increased partnership and consolidation amongst governmental affairs firms to better serve clients in capitals like

Lansing, Columbus and Washington, D.C.,” said **Kelley Cawthorne CEO Rob Elhenicky**.

“Knowing that change is coming, we have taken an innovative step forward by joining forces with Pappas & Associates, creating a new multi-state advocacy team with a footprint stretching from Michigan to Ohio and beyond,” Elhenicky continued.

While both firms will continue to operate under their current names in each market, the merger provides Pappas & Associates’ clients with an additional network of representation in Michigan and represents Kelley Cawthorne’s formal entry into the Ohio market after increasing activity in Columbus over the last several years. The agreement became official this month.

Thomas P. Pappas & Associates (TPP) was founded in Columbus in 1995 by Thomas Pappas, following a public policy career that began on the staff of the Ohio General Assembly and with major Columbus law firms. The firm represents clients from around the United States at the Ohio Statehouse and before Ohio state government. Its clients include Fortune 100 companies, America’s largest retailer, multiple professional sports leagues, major healthcare interests, cutting edge technology entities and more.

Pappas will continue to lead the Ohio office for years to come under the agreement.

“We’ve been successful for nearly 30 years by providing our clients with the resources, and reliability, that gets results. By joining forces with Kelley Cawthorne, a firm with decades of advocacy experience in Michigan, we are better positioned to provide our clients the resources a rapidly changing public policy environment requires,” said **Thomas Pappas, Esq., President and CEO of TPP**.

“I am excited to provide our clients with a greatly increased level of service for years to come,” Pappas said.

Kelley Cawthorne is a privately held, full-service lobbying firm based in Lansing, Michigan. Founded in 1999, its extensive roster of major Michigan and national clients serves as proof of its reputation for quality work, knowledgeable

lobbyists and high ethical standards. Starting with the belief that change is inevitable, Kelley Cawthorne assists its clients in shaping that change in the fields of healthcare, higher education, energy, retail, mobility, communications and more.

With today's announcement, Kelley Cawthorne continues a multi-year growth trend that resulted in an active fourth quarter of 2022. In addition to the development of the agreement announced today, Kelley Cawthorne also hired multiple new team members in its Lansing office, added three new partners and built out its management infrastructure by creating the new position of Chief Operating Officer.

"Clients across all sectors are facing rapidly changing policy, legislative and regulatory environments," said **Kelley Cawthorne President Melissa McKinley**. "As corporate entities continue to rapidly consolidate and face multiple layers of government regulation, we looked ahead and saw that our client service abilities must match our clients' needs."

"After working together with Pappas & Associates previously, it became clear that our firms would complement each other while providing all our clients with new resources across the Midwest. It is a win-win situation for all involved," concluded McKinley.

Kelley Cawthorne:

Kelley Cawthorne's dedicated and talented lobbyists can help your organization shape change in Michigan, Ohio and beyond. Connect today at [Kelley- Cawthorne.com](http://Kelley-Cawthorne.com) or on Twitter at [@kelleycawthorne](https://twitter.com/kelleycawthorne).

Kelley Cawthorne's offices are located in Lansing at [208 N. Capitol Ave., 3rd Floor](#), and Detroit at 440 Burroughs, Suite 327.

Thomas P. Pappas & Associates:

Learn more about how TPP can help advocate for your cause by visiting TomPappas.com or Twitter at [@pappas_assoc](https://twitter.com/pappas_assoc).

TPP is headquartered at [66 E. Lynn Street, Suite 2000](#), in Columbus, just steps from the Ohio Statehouse.

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