



Mackenzie Warren Kay
Vice President and Attorney

Government Affairs & Advocacy Group

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Bar Admission
Nevada

Education

- J.D., 2017, *cum laude*, University of Nevada - Las Vegas, William S. Boyd School of Law
- B.A., 2010, Southern Methodist University

Mackenzie Warren Kay, a practicing attorney and Vice President in McDonald Carano’s Government Affairs & Advocacy Group, pairs her background as an investigative journalist with her passion for local and state government to foster creative solutions for clients. Based in our Las Vegas office, Mackenzie focuses on developing practical legislative and administrative strategies while helping clients navigate Nevada’s political landscape. Mackenzie is also Chair of McDonald Carano’s Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee.

As a native and proud Nevadan, Mackenzie understands the evolving policy needs of the state. Through her close relationships with elected officials and staff at every layer of state and local government, Mackenzie connects with key decisionmakers and forges relationships for clients to drive productive conversations, ultimately reaching sound policy resolutions. At the core of Mackenzie’s government affairs practice is her reputation for integrity and professionalism.

Her journalistic experience has allowed Mackenzie to take a unique approach in her role as both attorney and lobbyist. She began her career as a two-time Emmy-nominated television news anchor and reporter for the NBC affiliate in Las Vegas and Reno, where she covered every corner of the state, including Clark County and several local municipalities during the Great Recession and Nevada’s hard-fought recovery. Mackenzie served as the station’s investigative reporter and capitol correspondent covering the Nevada Legislature in both the 2011 and 2013 legislative sessions.

Mackenzie’s legal career began in litigation before evolving into her current government affairs practice. She has litigated before the Nevada Supreme Court, the United States District Court for the District of Nevada and the Eighth Judicial District Court, Clark County, Nevada – Civil and Family Division. Mackenzie also gives back to the community by providing pro bono legal services for which she received a 100 Pro Bono Hours Club Award. Her pro bono assistance includes working with the Children’s Attorneys Project through the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada where she represents abused and neglected children placed in foster care.

Mackenzie graduated from the UNLV William S. Boyd School of Law, where she served as Notes Editor of the *Nevada Law Journal* and member of the Society of Advocates (Moot Court Team). Mackenzie was nominated by her law school peers to give the commencement speech alongside former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. She held clerkships with the Clark County Public Defender's Office and Justice Elissa F. Cadish of the Nevada Supreme Court.

Awards and Recognition

- *The Best Lawyers in America* – “Ones to Watch” in Government Relations (2021-2024)
- *Nevada Business Magazine* – “Top Rank Attorneys” (2024, 2018)
- *Vegas Inc.* – “Top Lawyers” in Public Interest Law (2021, 2020)
- 100 Pro Bono Hours Club Award, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada (2018)

Presentations and Publications

- Co-Author, “2022 Nevada Primary Election Results Guide,” *McDonald Carano Government Affairs & Advocacy Group Report*, November 2022
- Presenter, “Exploring the Future of Multifamily Housing,” CREW Las Vegas Chapter Educational Meeting, September 13, 2022
- Quoted, “Nevada evictions expected to spike as uncertainty surrounds federal eviction moratorium,” *Reno Gazette Journal*, August 5, 2021
- Co-Author, “Nevada Legislative Session 2021: What You Need to Know,” *McDonald Carano Government Affairs & Advocacy Report*, June 2021
- Author, “COVID-19 Liability: The Litigation Surge and Nevada’s Ominous Recovery,” *Nevada News*, Retail Association of Nevada newsletter, June 1, 2020
- Quoted, “Inoculating a casino workforce against COVID-19 could boost a damaged gaming market,” *CDC Gaming Reports*, January 20, 2021
- Author, “Newly Released Greenhouse Gas Emissions Report,” *Nevada News*, Retail Association of Nevada newsletter, February 1, 2020

Professional Memberships

- Clark County Bar Association
- Southern Nevada Association of Women Attorneys

Nevada Newsmakers Interviews

[May 3, 2024](#), [November 18, 2022](#), [October 12, 2022](#), [August 24, 2021](#), [June 2, 2021](#), [December 3, 2020](#), [August 25, 2020](#)

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