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STEVE BARIL ADVOCATES FOR VIRGINIA SMOKE FREE ASSOCIATION'S OPPOSITION TO RECENT BILL ON ELECTRONIC CIGARETTES

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Recently, the [Richmond Times Dispatch](#) wrote about the Virginia Smoke Free Association's plan to oppose a bill that will be presented during the General Assembly session that was set to begin on January 13, 2016. The bill, introduced by Sen. John C. Miller, D-Newport News aims to prohibit "vaping", the use of electronic cigarettes, in restaurants in Virginia. The familiarity of this concept comes from the prohibition of regular, tobacco-based cigarettes in restaurants in Virginia since 2009. This recent bill intends to expand the definition of "smoking" to include electronic cigarettes under the same, unsafe category as traditional cigarettes. VSFA argues that electronic cigarettes are safer than traditional cigarettes and wants to protect the newly popular vaping industry.

Kaplan Voekler Cunningham & Frank PLC's involvement with the Virginia Smoke Free Association includes one of its attorneys, Stephen E. Baril, who serves as VSFA's government relations representative and lobbyist for the General Assembly Session. Baril has been actively involved in the formation of VSFA, building relationships, and providing legal and governmental advice to the association.

VSFA is an advocacy group and trade association focused exclusively on Tobacco Harm Reduction (THR) through the use of personal vaporizers, known as electronic cigarettes or e-cigs, as a safer alternative to smoking tobacco cigarettes. VSFA is comprised of retailers and manufacturers, as well as consumers.

Stephen E. Baril comments, "Our agenda is not to advocate for the right to vape anywhere ... The way it stands now, any particular restaurant has the prerogative to ask a customer not to do that."

Steve Baril heads KVCF's government relations group and also heads the firm's business litigation practice. "We cater to business owners and entrepreneurs, so we're naturally excited about representing a new association dedicated to safer alternatives to tobacco smoking. Our initial task is to educate members of the General Assembly about e-cigs and dispel myths about their use," said Baril.

About Kaplan Voekler Cunningham & Frank PLC

Kaplan Voekler Cunningham & Frank was founded in 2005 with one primary objective: to create a law firm capable of providing exemplary value to clients with sophisticated needs.

Kaplan Voekler Cunningham & Frank brings a comprehensive approach to legal services providing practical, timely legal advice in a cost-effective manner. We seek to provide the type of consistent, thorough, value-added service that can only be achieved by a true understanding of our clients' businesses. The attorneys at KVCF have vast experience and focus on delivering superior quality work with a focus on cost effectiveness, efficiency and timely responsiveness. KVCF, based in Richmond, serves clients nationwide.