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Solicitors General Insights: The Legal Frontlines in Iowa and Indiana

Regulatory Oversight Podcast

SPEAKERS

[Stephen C. Piepgrass](#) | [Jeff P. Johnson](#)

In this episode of our special *Regulatory Oversight: Solicitors General Insights* series, Jeff Johnson is joined by Iowa Solicitor General Eric Wessan and Indiana Solicitor General James Barta to discuss their roles and responsibilities, as well as the current legal challenges their offices are facing. The conversation delves into the intricacies of state and federal court appeals, highlighting the significant amount of work done in state courts.

Eric explains the Iowa solicitor general division's focus on agriculture and energy, emphasizing the importance of defending state laws and handling appeals. He also discusses the unique appellate process in Iowa, where all appeals initially go to the Iowa Supreme Court. James outlines Indiana's approach, which includes defending state statutes, strategic litigation, and advising the attorney general on various legal matters.

The episode explores the issue of extraterritorial regulation, and the challenges posed by states imposing regulations that affect industries in other states, such as pork production and fossil fuel usage. While highlighting the importance of preserving state sovereignty, the discussion concludes by addressing the principles of equal sovereignty and federalism, referencing recent Supreme Court cases and ongoing litigation.

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