

2023 ACC Top 10 30-Somethings: Alex Van Gorp

Interviews and Profiles



The ACC Top 10 30-Somethings awards recognize in-house counsel between the ages of 30 and 39 for their innovation, approach to challenges, well-rounded perspectives, contributions to the in-house community, and pro bono and volunteer work.



The career of Alex Van Gorp, the first general counsel for the Damien Center, Indiana's oldest and largest AIDS service organization, exemplifies the determination and resilience required to succeed

in the legal profession.

Alex's journey to becoming an in-house counsel was unconventional. When a close family member was diagnosed with the disease, he participated in fundraising activities with a nonprofit organization. This early engagement with HIV causes ignited his passion for making a difference in the lives of those affected by the disease.


ACC
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30 somethings
2023 AWARD
Presented to
Alexander Van Gorp
In recognition of your dedicated service and valuable contributions to the in-house legal profession

Alex Van Gorp receives his 2023 Top 10 30-Somethings award.

During law school, Alex continued his involvement with HIV causes by working at Damien Center as an HIV tester. This experience opened the door for him to join the state health department's in-house legal department. After gaining valuable experience at the state health department, Alex returned to the Damien Center as general counsel, assuming a leadership role within the organization.

Throughout his legal education, Alex discovered a passion for corporate law and the intricate world of contracts. Despite the common perception of these subjects as mundane, he found them captivating and intriguing. “During law school, engaging with corporate-related topics made me feel like I was tapping into the best part of my nerdy side,” he shares.

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>
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His enthusiasm led him to take on significant responsibilities, such as overseeing deal negotiation for a US$35 million capital campaign aimed at constructing a new facility. Alex's aptitude for high-stakes, strategic work solidified his value in an in-house counsel role. “I was always seeking out opportunities that would affirm my seat at the table,” he explains.

Upon joining the Damien Center as general counsel, Alex embraced the generalist style that is a hallmark of an in-house role. He thrived in this position, entrusted with tackling various legal problems. For example, he spearheaded the development of the first HIV advocacy agenda for the state legislative session.

Alex's affinity for generalism stems from its flexibility and creativity. This became apparent when he was tasked with ensuring compliance with Damien Center’s 340B program, which provides prescription rebates to people on government insurance.

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Beyond his work at the Damien Center, he has demonstrated immense dedication to pro bono work and volunteer initiatives. “I have a unique role and skills that could make a difference in people’s lives,” Alex reflects. He received his law school's highest award in pro bono service after he contributed over 1,200 hours of volunteer legal services. His deep commitment to improving the lives of people living with HIV and the LGBTQ+ community led him to take on leadership roles of multiple local nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing support to those individuals. These endeavors were not just career milestones, but profound experiences that enriched his understanding of charity and humanity. “So much of our industry is built to burn us out. Pro bono opportunities can reinvigorate you when you know that work is bringing about some good,” Alex explains.

Alex Van Gorp's acceptance speech for ACC's 2023 Top 10 30-Somethings.

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