

Practical Advocacy: "The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly"

So, you want to make an office visit...

- The good... call ahead, be organized, and be on time.
- The bad... not calling ahead, being too vague during the meeting, arriving late.
- The ugly... taking up too much time with chit-chat or demanding to see the Rep/Senator.

Visits during the interim

- The good... friendly, understanding of the process, and open-minded.
- The bad... only calls once, demands bills be filed without forming relationships, and tries to steamroll staffers.
- The ugly... not showing up until the week of bill-filing deadline.

Visits during the session

- The good... communicative, concise, and timely.
- The bad... impatient, unresponsive, or unhelpful.
- The ugly... demanding, aggressive, and unwilling to compromise.

Building Relationships

- The good... when advocates know the issues and know the process.
- The bad... when someone is relentlessly eager.
- The ugly... not letting an office that you're working with know that you're going to testify against a bill of theirs'.

Just Remember...

- Time is of the essence! We only have 140 days every other year to get everything done!
- Build relationships
- Know some basic facts about the legislator
- Respond quickly
- Always be transparent
- Offer to help however needed
- Be ready to be quoted
- Offer support or opposition of specific legislation
- Be nice ☺

Helpful Resources:

Texas Legislature Online: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>

Texas House of Representatives: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/>

Texas Senate: <http://www.senate.state.tx.us/>

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