

**Chris Hand** is a Jacksonville native with a long record of public, civic, and legal service. He currently leads Hand Law ([www.hand.law](http://www.hand.law)), a strategic government law firm which helps clients navigate the often complex process of working with city, county, regional, state, and federal governments. Hand Law is especially interested in helping to foster partnerships among the public, private and non-profit sectors to advance economic development and infrastructure investment.

From 2011 to 2015, Hand served as Chief of Staff at the City of Jacksonville, Florida — the largest city by area in the contiguous United States and largest by population in Florida. As Chief of Staff, he led the advancement of strategic initiatives, coordinated the Mayor’s Cabinet of direct reports, and managed the Mayor’s Office team, with oversight for policy, advocacy, communications, outreach, and scheduling. Hand also led efforts to achieve comprehensive retirement reform and participated in economic and Downtown Jacksonville revitalization initiatives.

In 2018, Hand returned to City Hall for the Task Force on Civil Rights History. Task force members were recognized with the Melody Starr Anne Bishop Community Service Award for “outstanding community involvement, public service and commitment to enhancing and improving the quality of life for others.” He also authored the 50th Anniversary update to the chronicle of Jacksonville’s historic city-county consolidation: *A Quiet Revolution – the Consolidation of Jacksonville-Duval County and the Dynamics of Urban Political Reform*.

Hand has also been engaged with federal and state government. From 1996 to 2000, he served as speechwriter, campaign press secretary, and Senate press secretary for U.S. Senator and former Governor Bob Graham. With Senator Graham, Hand is co-author of *America, the Owner’s Manual: You Can Fight City Hall – and Win*, a guide to helping Americans flex their citizenship muscles to make government respond. He gave a 2017 TEDx Jacksonville talk on the subject: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S9IUkpxy1rs>

In 2008, Hand served as one of 27 Florida electors in the U.S. Electoral College. He was a member of the 2018-19 transition team for Commissioner of Agriculture and Consumer Services Nikki Fried. He also helped to lead the Groveland Four Clemency Coalition, a bipartisan team which worked to persuade the Florida Cabinet to pardon four Floridians unjustly accused of crimes.

Hand graduated from the Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs. He was honored with the *Daily Princetonian* Award for his efforts to reform the university’s Honor Code. Hand later graduated from the University of Florida’s Levin College of Law. The law school student body elected him as president of the student bar association. Hand also served as a research assistant to former Florida Governor and U.S. Representative Buddy MacKay.

Hand is a member of the Jacksonville Bar Association, Leadership Jacksonville Class of 2014, and Leadership Florida Cornerstone Class XXXVI (36). An enthusiastic hiker who loves the Florida outdoors, and a dedicated fan of the Jacksonville Jaguars and Florida Gators, Hand lives in Jacksonville with his wife and two children.