

Congressional Investigations

Navigating Congressional Investigations



The oversight and investigative powers of Congress are formidable and differ greatly from the investigative authorities of executive branch agencies. Far too often, companies investigated by Congress mistakenly assume, to their great detriment, that congressional investigations involve little more than sitting through an hour or two of political grandstanding, with few lasting consequences. To the contrary, congressional investigations are serious matters that pose severe legal and public relations risks. Congressional investigations and hearings are governed by rules that are far less protective of a company's interest than those of the courtroom. As a result, prior litigation or lobbying experience does little to prepare a company for the intense and adversarial scrutiny of a congressional investigation.

“Congressional investigations and lobbying are two of the strongest components of [King & Spalding’s] practice.”
Chambers USA

Here is where King & Spalding can help. Recognized by *Chambers USA* as “particularly prominent in the field of Congressional investigations” and “always ‘spot-on in its strategic advice,’ ” King & Spalding’s team of congressional investigations professionals is led by former congressional investigators and lawyers with decades of experience in handling the unique and difficult issues—and risks—that confront companies facing not only congressional investigative scrutiny but also simultaneously facing complex federal and state criminal investigations, and/or civil and regulatory litigation and proceedings.

Invaluable Counsel

- Negotiating responses to subpoenas and requests for documents
- Assisting clients with witness testimony preparation
- Preparing witnesses with mock question-and-answer sessions
- Guiding clients through the unique challenges presented by congressional testimony at high-profile hearings
- Coordinating responses to Congress with in-house and outside legal and communications personnel working on related litigation, government investigations and media relations
- Monitoring congressional oversight activities regularly to anticipate our clients’ potential exposure to investigations

“[Ted Hester] is one of the foremost Congressional investigations experts in the market.”

Chambers USA

Our Nationally Recognized Team

As a full-service law firm, King & Spalding is able to quickly assemble a team of nationally recognized experts by drawing upon the collective expertise of 1000+ attorneys. Our Congressional Investigations team is led by:

- Ted Hester, who has successfully represented clients in high-profile congressional matters for over two decades;
- Eleanor Hill, who served as the staff director for the Joint Congressional Inquiry on the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, as the inspector general of the Department of Defense, as the staff director for the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, and as a federal prosecutor;
- Tom Spulak, former general counsel of the U.S. House of Representatives; and
- Dan Donovan, former Senior Investigative Counsel to Senator Charles E. Grassley, Senate Committee on Finance.

Recent Matters

- Representation of **one of the world’s largest auto manufacturers** in investigations and hearings by the House Energy and Commerce Committee, the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee relating to allegations of unintended acceleration.
- Providing advice and counsel with respect to congressional oversight activity to the **leading pharmaceutical industry trade association** and to **leading companies in the pharmaceutical, medical device, food processing, healthcare, telecommunications, logistics, insurance, and oil industries**.
- Representation of a **for-profit education company** in connection with a Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee investigation of the industry.
- Representation of a **major defense contractor** in connection with government investigations of performance and cost issues pursuant to Iraq reconstruction contracts.
- Representation of a **major oil company** in a Senate investigation of pricing issues within the oil and gas industry.
- Representation of a **leading Fortune 50 corporation** in a Senate investigation of corporate tax shelter issues.
- Representation of a **Big Four accounting firm** in a Senate committee investigation of a University’s handling of federal funds.
- Representation of a **global consulting firm** in connection with a House Oversight and Government Reform Committee investigation involving executive compensation issues.
- Representation of a **major government contractor** in connection with investigations of conflicts of interest at the National Institutes of Health by the House Energy and Commerce Committee and the Inspector General of the Department of Health and Human Services.

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