

Congressional Investigations

Strategically navigate legal, business and public relations risks

The oversight and investigative powers of Congress are uniquely challenging, differing greatly from other government investigative agencies. Companies investigated by Congress may assume to their detriment that congressional investigations are simply an exercise in political grandstanding. However, congressional investigations in their myriad forms pose significant legal, business, and public relations risks requiring crisis management experience. Prior litigation or lobbying experience are often insufficient preparation for the intense and adversarial scrutiny of politically-motivated, high-stakes hearings and investigations.

OUR NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED TEAM

King & Spalding's team of former congressional investigators, executive branch officials, and seasoned lawyers have decades of experience handling the challenges of congressional investigations, often in parallel with other government investigations and litigation. Our congressional investigations team established its reputation in the 1990's when it was anchored by former U.S. Attorney General Griffin Bell and Ted Hester, who represented leading U.S. companies in some of the most significant investigations of that era. Since then, our team of dedicated congressional investigations practitioners has grown to meet the demands of the present political climate.

OUR STRATEGIC APPROACH

In this unprecedented political era, we are helping clients respond to inquiries from Congress on the most pressing and high-profile issues facing our country. Our team has intimate knowledge of the distinctive character and rules of congressional committees and firsthand experience with their investigative staffs. Our past work, demonstrated professionalism, and credibility with Members of Congress and staff on both sides of the aisle have proven invaluable in protecting our clients' businesses and brands across a wide range of industries.

Our team works on matters at the forefront of controversial and politicized global and national policy issues that frequently lead to congressional investigations and complex federal and state criminal investigations, and/or civil and regulatory litigation and proceedings. Consequently, we often partner with a deep bench of our lawyers, including former leaders of regulatory and enforcement agencies, such as DOJ, FTC, SEC, HHS, FDA, EPA, and CFPB, among others. And we enjoy an unparalleled reputation for working seamlessly with legal and government relations departments, C-suite management and boards of directors, and compliance offices and operational divisions.



King & Spalding LLP

Chambers USA

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

“Particularly prominent in the field of congressional investigations” and “always spot-on in its strategic advice.”

CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM LEADERSHIP



Daniel Donovan
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- Co-chairs the firm's Government Advocacy and Public Policy group.
- Served as a Chief Investigative Counsel in the U.S. Senate, managing congressional investigations and oversight hearings for 8 years.
- Prepares clients for high-profile hearings and guides them through the unique challenges presented by congressional and parallel government investigations.
- Represents CEOs and other senior executives with high-profile testimony and crisis management during investigations and hearings.



Sally Yates
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- Former Deputy Attorney General and Acting Attorney General responsible for all of DOJ's litigating and national security components and for crafting and implementing DOJ's priority initiatives.
- Leads the firm's Crisis Management practice.
- Counsels clients in complex and sensitive matters, often with overlapping congressional, enforcement, and regulatory investigations.
- Draws on her experience testifying before Congress in high-stakes matters to provide CEO's and other executives with rare first-hand insight in preparing for their testimony.



Ted Hester
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- Over 30 years' experience representing companies being investigated by congressional committees and in counseling businesses on crisis management.
- Advises clients on working with Congress and government agencies, including the preparation and defense of corporate executives testifying before congressional committees.

What Sets Us Apart

- Powerhouse of former congressional investigators and senior executive branch officials
- Decades of experience successfully providing strategic counsel
- Strong track record on matters at the forefront of high-stakes, controversial and politicized issues
- Firsthand experience and bi-partisan working relationships with Members and investigative staffs

Chambers USA

"Daniel has a lot of experience on the Hill and is able to get in front of issues with strategic planning, availability and diligence around investigations."

Sally "is extremely competent, thorough, intelligent, and companies rely on her."

"Ted Hester is one of the foremost Congressional investigations experts in the market."