

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 and private-sector entities 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 bipartisan 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 strong 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 significantly increased congressional oversight, much of which takes place in the spotlight of the 24-hour news cycle.

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.

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, and EPA, among others. 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.



Chambers and Legal 500 – Our Team

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

Ranked Band 1 and Tier 1 Nationwide for Congressional Investigations

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



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 bipartisan working relationships with Members and investigative staffs

Our Team

“They are able to handle really high-profile, complex matters. Their bench is deep, meaning they can always staff matters with great talent. Their advice, litigation work and counsel is fantastic.”

“They think ahead and provide guidance before an issue even arises, critical to fast-moving environments.”

“King & Spalding pulls together strong teams of top-notch attorneys to provide excellent advice and counsel on complex matters.”



CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATIONS TEAM LEADERSHIP



Dan Donovan
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Co-leads the firm's Congressional Investigations practice and co-chairs the firm's Government Advocacy and Public Policy group.

Former Chief Investigative Counsel in the U.S. Senate, managing congressional investigations and oversight hearings for nearly a decade.

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.



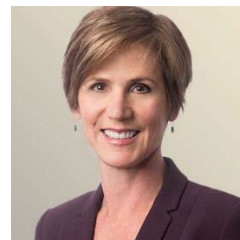
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Co-leads the firm's Congressional Investigations practice.

Former Senior Counsel and Special Assistant to President Biden, White House Counsel's Office.

Former Associate Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, managing DOJ's congressional oversight responses and preparing senior leadership for testimony.

Represents companies and senior executives in congressional and parallel investigations, enforcement actions, and high-profile testimony.



Sally Yates
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Leads the firm's Crisis Management practice.

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.

Counsels clients in complex and sensitive matters, often with overlapping congressional, enforcement, and regulatory investigations.

Provides executives guidance in preparing for their testimony by leveraging her invaluable experience testifying before Congress on critical matters.



Rob Hur
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Former Special Counsel, appointed by Attorney General Garland, to investigate the President Biden classified documents matter.

Former Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, assisting with oversight of all DOJ components and liaising regularly with Congress, the White House, and federal agencies.

Former United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, leading one of the largest and busiest U.S. Attorney's Offices in the nation.

Advises clients in congressional and parallel investigations, drawing on his experience testifying before Congress to counsel CEOs and other executives with rare firsthand insights.



Matthew Hanson
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Former Deputy Assistant Attorney General, serving nearly three years with DOJ's Office of Legislative Affairs, managing engagement with bipartisan congressional members and staff from House and Senate leadership, as well as a variety of committees.

More than a decade of financial and congressional investigations experience prior to DOJ service.

Represents companies and individuals in government investigations by Congress, DOJ, the SEC, and other federal and state regulators. Has prepared senior executives for dozens of congressional hearings and counsels clients involved in parallel investigations by congressional, federal, and state investigators.



Ehren Halse
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Focuses on high-stakes internal and regulatory-facing investigations opposite the U.S. Congress, State AGs (both Democratic and Republican), and DOJ.

Has prepared dozens of executives for Congressional hearing and transcribed interview testimony, and counseled clients on written testimony and responses to Congressional Questions for the Record.

Handles politically sensitive matters dealing with content moderation and free speech issues (e.g., allegations of viewpoint bias, discrimination, firearms content, misinformation, child safety content, concerns with AI).



Leah Grossi
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Former Associate Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office responsible for preparing and vetting judicial candidates, including Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson, for Senate confirmation hearings.

Former Senior Counsel in DOJ's Office of Legislative Affairs, responsible for preparing senior DOJ leadership, including the Attorney General, for testimony before Congress.

Drawing on over 15 years of government and private practice experience, advises and counsels companies and high-level executives facing government investigations and enforcement actions by DOJ, SEC, and Congress.



William Clarkson
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Former legislative advisor to U.S. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), current Appropriations Committee Chair, handling transportation, appropriations and security issues.

Over a decade of experience representing corporate and non-profit entities in a wide range of congressional investigations and hearings in the House and Senate.

Works closely with clients' legal and government relations teams to navigate the legal and public relations challenges presented by congressional and parallel state and federal government investigations, including briefing and hearing testimony.



Justin Dews
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Former Associate Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office responsible for advising Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and over 100 other judicial nominees for their Senate nomination hearings.

Counsels clients through government and congressional investigations, as well as corporate internal investigations.

Prepares CEOs and corporate executives for high-profile testimony before House and Senate committees and related crisis management.



Emily Apte
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Former Associate Director in the White House Office of Presidential Speechwriting and appointee in the U.S. Department of Education, Congressional and Legislative Affairs.

Former Associate General Counsel at Meta Platforms, leading complex and high-risk U.S. congressional and state attorneys general investigations.

Advises clients in high-profile and complex matters before Congress, state attorneys general, and other governmental bodies, including inquiries focused on tech and AI (AIGP certified).