

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 has 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.



Alicia O'Brien
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Co-leads the firm's bipartisan 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 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, including preparing senior executives for dozens of congressional hearings and counseling on parallel federal and state investigations.



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, high-profile matters for companies and institutions across a wide range of industries, including financial services, technology, retail, pharma, and transportation.



Amy Hitchcock
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Former Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Eastern District of California, responsible for prosecuting fraud, computer crimes, and public corruption, and leading the district's benefit fraud and elder fraud programs.

Represents retail, technology, state agency and other clients before various Congressional committees, including the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, and House Committee on Education and Workforce.

Advises clients through sensitive investigations initiated by Congress, State Attorneys General, DOJ and others, providing crisis management and strategic advice.



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.



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Former Associate Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office responsible for advising and preparing Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson and over 100 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, legal and media strategy.



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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 a prominent global technology company, 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).