



## Speaker Biographies

**Doug Gibson**

Partner and Chair of Management Committee, Washington

[dgibson@cov.com](mailto:dgibson@cov.com)**Session:***Welcome and Introduction*

Doug Gibson is Chair of Covington's Management Committee, and is responsible for the overall direction of Covington's strategy and operations. In addition to his leadership and management roles, Doug has continued an active corporate practice, with a particular focus on clients in the sports and consumer products industries. His practice emphasizes strategic counseling; mergers, acquisitions, divestitures and joint ventures; debt financings; and sports media transactions. Doug also has significant expertise in cross-border transactions gained both during his tenure at Covington and through his prior experience as General Counsel of Bacardi Limited. In addition to negotiating and structuring transactions, he advises clients on general corporate and strategic matters, including corporate governance issues and senior executive employment and incentive arrangements.

**Rob Kelner**

Partner, Washington

[rkelner@cov.com](mailto:rkelner@cov.com)**Sessions:***An Update on Political Law Enforcement Trends**Luncheon: A Panel on Congressional Investigations (Moderator)*

Rob Kelner is the chair of Covington's nationally recognized Election and Political Law Practice Group. He counsels clients on the full range of political law compliance matters, and defends clients in civil and criminal law enforcement investigations concerning political activity. He also co-leads the firm's prominent congressional investigations practice. Rob's political law compliance practice covers federal and state campaign finance, lobbying disclosure, pay-to-play, and government ethics laws. His expertise includes the Federal Election Campaign Act, Lobbying Disclosure Act, Ethics in Government Act, and Foreign Agents Registration Act. Rob regularly defends clients in congressional investigations before virtually every major congressional investigation committee. He also defends corporations and others in investigations by the Federal Election Commission, the Public Integrity Section of the U.S. Department of Justice, federal Offices of Inspector General, state Attorneys General, and the House & Senate Ethics Committees. He has prepared many CEOs and corporate executives for testimony before congressional investigation panels. In addition, he is frequently retained to lead internal investigations and compliance reviews for major corporate clients concerning lobbying and campaign finance law issues.

## Corporate Political Activity and Government Affairs Compliance Seminar

THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2026 | WASHINGTON



**Peter Koski**

Partner, Washington

[pkoski@cov.com](mailto:pkoski@cov.com)

**Session:**

*An Update on Political Law Enforcement Trends*

Drawing on his experience as a senior DOJ official and leading international anti-corruption practitioner, Peter Koski represents companies and individuals in sensitive, high-stakes government and regulatory enforcement matters and internal investigations. Peter has a depth of experience investigating, bringing to trial, and handling on appeal complex white collar matters involving the public and private sectors. He has handled an array of matters relating to foreign and domestic corruption, business and human rights, supply chain sourcing, cyber security, and violations of the federal laws governing elected and appointed officials. Prior to joining the firm, Peter served as Deputy Chief of the U.S. Department of Justice's Public Integrity Section, where he helped manage a team of over 30 attorneys responsible for investigating and prosecuting corruption across the country. In over a decade of service in the Justice Department, Peter partnered with numerous U.S. Attorney's Offices and worked closely with senior officials at over 25 federal agencies. Peter has tried over two dozen bench and jury trials, appeared in court in over a dozen districts across the country, and has handled corruption matters on five continents.



**Elizabeth Upton**

Special Counsel, Washington

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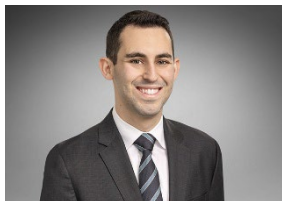
**Sessions:**

*A Crash Course on Lobbying Registration & Disclosure  
Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Elizabeth Upton represents and counsels corporate, political, and individual clients in matters before government agencies and Congress. Elizabeth also advises companies, PACs, nonprofits, and individuals on the full range of political law compliance and enforcement matters involving federal election, campaign finance, lobbying, and government ethics laws, as well as the election and political laws of states and municipalities across the country. Elizabeth also defends clients in high-profile congressional investigations before House and Senate Committees, as well as in criminal and civil government investigations before the Public Integrity Section of the Department of Justice and the Federal Election Commission. She has experience assisting companies in responding to formal and informal inquiries, requests, and subpoenas for documents, information, and testimony, and has experience preparing senior executives to testify before congressional committees. Prior to joining Covington, Elizabeth served as a Law Clerk to the U.S. Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations (PSI).

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**Sam Klein**

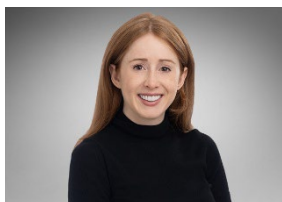
Associate, Washington

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**Sessions:**

*A Crash Course on Lobbying Registration & Disclosure*

Sam Klein helps clients manage reputational risks and navigate the regulatory and political environment for public advocacy. As a member of Covington's Election and Political Law group, Sam assists clients facing Congressional investigations and advises on election administration, ethics, and campaign finance laws; with the firm's Public Policy group, he supports strategic advocacy at the federal and state levels. He maintains an active pro bono practice. Sam previously served as a law clerk at the Federal Election Commission, an intern to two committee leaders in Congress, and a public affairs consultant.



**Alexandra Langton**

Associate, Washington

[alangton@cov.com](mailto:alangton@cov.com)

**Sessions:**

*The Foreign Agents Registration Act*

Alexandra Langton represents clients in high-profile and high-risk congressional investigations, FEC investigations, and other criminal, civil, and internal investigations that present legal, political, and public relations risks. She also advises companies, PACs, nonprofits, and individuals on compliance with federal and state campaign finance, ethics, lobbying laws, and vetting matters. Alexandra has particular expertise in FARA, and frequently interacts with the FARA Unit of the DOJ and advises clients on top-tier FARA compliance programs, including FARA policies, FARA trainings, and FARA filings. Alexandra also represents a number of clients in high-profile civil and criminal FARA enforcement actions.

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### **Ian Redfearn**

Special Counsel, Washington

[iredfearn@cov.com](mailto:iredfearn@cov.com)

#### **Sessions:**

*The Foreign Agents Registration Act*

Ian Redfearn advises clients on their most complex and high-profile global compliance challenges, related transactional and litigation matters, and interactions with law enforcement authorities and regulators. His political law practice includes advice on the lobbying registration requirements under the UK Transparency of Lobbying, Non-Party Campaigning and Trade Union Administration Act and the EU Transparency Register; the UK Foreign Influence Registration Scheme, which has been established under the UK National Security Act; the ethics, conduct and transparency rules applicable to UK Government officials and parliamentarians; and the recruitment of former UK Government officials, including the Business Appointment Rules for Ministers and the Business Appointment Rules for Crown Servants.



### **Andrew Garrahan**

Of Counsel, Washington

[agarrahan@cov.com](mailto:agarrahan@cov.com)

#### **Sessions:**

*Corporate Political Donations*

*Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Andrew Garrahan represents and counsels clients at the intersection of law and politics. He guides them through both regulatory compliance issues and government investigations on matters including state and federal campaign finance, ethics, lobbying, and corruption. Andrew's prior career in political fundraising gives him a unique perspective on the challenges faced by his clients, which include corporations, candidates, government officials, political and nonprofit organizations, and private individuals. Andrew's counseling and advisory practice includes: guiding clients on structuring of and compliance for their state and federal lobbying and grassroots advocacy campaigns; representing campaigns, Super PACs, corporations, trade associations, and individuals on the applicability of FECA and state campaign finance law; counseling on FARA registration and disclosure, and its interaction with LDA; helping companies comply with state and federal ethics laws; and auditing corporate political law compliance practices. Andrew's investigations and defense work includes: defending clients in DOJ matters related to campaign finance, lobbying, ethics, and public corruption; and representing clients before the FEC and state campaign finance, lobbying, and ethics regulators.

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**Susan Leahy**

Of Counsel, Washington

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**Session:**

*Corporate Political Donations*

Susan Leahy has advised tax-exempt, nonprofit organizations on tax and corporate governance matters for over 25 years, working with organizations that operate in the United States as well as internationally. She assists nonprofits organizations in obtaining and maintaining tax-exempt status and advises boards and senior executives on a range of governance policies and procedures. Susan also advises other organizations and individuals on the tax implications of engaging in lobbying and political activities.



**Dana Remus**

Partner, Washington

[dremus@cov.com](mailto:dremus@cov.com)

**Session:**

*Election-Year Issues Facing Corporations*

Drawing on her prior experience in government service, Dana Remus advises clients on public policy issues, government regulatory enforcement trends, election and political law matters, congressional investigations, and ethics matters. Dana joined Covington after serving as Assistant to the President and White House Counsel for President Biden. In this role, Dana led the administration's effort to confirm a historic number of judicial nominees, including U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. As White House Counsel, Dana advised on a range of matters and policy initiatives, including implementation of bipartisan legislation and high-profile congressional investigations. Dana also previously led the Biden-Harris campaign's legal team as General Counsel, and served as senior advisor to the Harris-Walz campaign. In the Obama administration, she served as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Counsel for ethics and following the administration, she served as General Counsel of the Obama Foundation, and General Counsel of the personal office of President and Mrs. Obama

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### **Zachary Parks**

Partner, Washington

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#### **Sessions:**

*Election-Year Issues Facing Corporations*  
*Doing Business with Governments*

Zachary Parks advises corporations, trade associations, campaigns, and high-net worth individuals on their most important and challenging political law problems. His expertise includes the Federal Election Campaign Act, the Lobbying Disclosure Act, the Ethics in Government Act, the Foreign Agents Registration Act, and the Securities and Exchange Commission's pay-to-play rules. He has helped clients comply with the election and political laws of all 50 states. Zack also frequently leads political law due diligence for investment firms and corporations during mergers and acquisitions. He routinely advises corporations and corporate executives on instituting political law compliance programs and conducts compliance training for senior corporate executives and lobbyists. He also has extensive experience conducting corporate internal investigations concerning campaign finance and lobbying law compliance and has defended his political law clients in investigations by the Federal Election Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, Congressional committees, and in litigation. His commentary has been included in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Politico*, *The Hill*, *Reuters*, and numerous other publications.



### **Derek Lawlor**

Of Counsel, Washington

[dlawlor@cov.com](mailto:dlawlor@cov.com)

#### **Sessions:**

*Corporate PAC Activity*  
*Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Derek Lawlor advises corporations, nonprofit organizations, and trade associations on compliance with federal and state lobbying, campaign finance, and government ethics laws. Clients regularly rely on Derek to assist with their complex questions related to activities and projects that implicate all of these laws. Derek advises federal and state candidates and super PACs on campaign finance and disclosure issues. Derek also represents clients in government investigations and inquiries conducted by the Federal Election Commission, Office of Congressional Conduct, and Congressional Committees and Commissions. Derek's representation of clients covers the full range of important political law issues that they face, including: advising clients on their registration and reporting obligations under the federal Lobbying Disclosure Act, as well as state and local lobbying laws; assisting corporations and trade associations with the establishment and operation of connected PACs; advising federal and state candidates, super PACs, and other political committees on compliance with campaign finance laws; and helping clients establish politically active or policy-focused nonprofit organizations.

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### **Kimberly Railey**

Associate, Washington  
[krailey@cov.com](mailto:krailey@cov.com)

**Session:**  
*Corporate PAC Activity*

Kimberly Railey advises corporations, PACs, nonprofits, and individuals on compliance with federal and state lobbying, campaign finance, and government ethics laws. She also represents and counsels clients in matters before government agencies and Congress. Prior to law school, Kimberly was a political reporter for a nonpartisan publication in Washington, DC.



### **Matt Shapanka**

Of Counsel, San Francisco / Washington  
[mshapanka@cov.com](mailto:mshapanka@cov.com)

**Session:**  
*Federal and State Gift Rules  
Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Matt Shapanka draws on more than 15 years of experience on Capitol Hill, private practice, state government, and political campaigns to counsel clients on significant legislative, regulatory, and enforcement matters across a range of industries, including matters involving technology, intellectual property, national security, financial services, and federal elections. He develops and executes complex, multifaceted public policy initiatives for clients seeking actions by Congress, state legislatures, and federal and state government agencies, many with significant legal and political opportunities and risks. Matt rejoined Covington after serving as Chief Counsel for the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, where he advised Chairwoman Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) on all legal, policy, and oversight matters before the Committee, particularly federal election and campaign finance law, Federal Election Commission nominations, and oversight of the legislative branch. Both in Congress and at Covington, Matt has prepared dozens of corporate and nonprofit executives, academics, government officials, and presidential nominees for testimony at congressional committee hearings and depositions. Matt also leads the firm's state policy practice, advising clients on complex multistate legislative and regulatory policy matters and managing state advocacy efforts.

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### **Channing Ruff**

Associate, Washington

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#### **Session:**

*Federal and State Gift Rules*

Channing Ruff advises clients responding to high-profile investigations and hearings before Congress and government agencies. He also advises corporations, PACs, nonprofits, and individuals on compliance with federal and state campaign finance, election, and lobbying laws. Prior to law school, Channing was a government affairs associate at a major Democratic lobbying firm and Senior Legislative Analyst for a financial services trade association.



### **Meredith Severtson**

Associate, Washington

[msevertson@cov.com](mailto:msevertson@cov.com)

#### **Session:**

*Doing Business with Governments*

Meredith Rolfs Severtson advises corporations, political committees, nonprofits, and individuals on compliance with federal and state lobbying, campaign finance, and government ethics laws. She also represents clients in congressional investigations and other matters before government agencies. Meredith maintains an active pro bono practice with a focus on voting rights.

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### **Matt Franker**

Partner, Washington  
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#### **Session:**

*Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Matt Franker has over 20 years of experience advising public and private companies, underwriters, and boards of directors in capital markets offerings, securities disclosure and financial reporting, including disclosures relating to non-GAAP financial measures, accounting for business combinations and other technical accounting issues, corporate governance and sustainability matters, mergers and acquisitions, and general corporate issues. Matt has an extensive securities advisory practice focused on assisting public companies in the wide variety of disclosure, corporate governance, and compliance matters that they face. Matt also has significant capital markets experience advising companies and underwriters on registered and exempt offerings of common and preferred equity securities and investment grade, high-yield, convertible, secured and subordinated debt securities, exchange offers, debt tender offers, and consent solicitations.



### **Perrin Cooke**

Special Counsel, Washington  
[pcooke@cov.com](mailto:pcooke@cov.com)

#### **Session:**

*Lightning Round: Hot Political Law Topics*

Perrin Cooke is special counsel in the firm's Washington, DC office and a member of the White Collar Defense and Investigations, Election and Political Law, and Public Policy Practice Groups, with a focus on assisting clients responding to high-profile congressional investigations. Drawing on his experience in government, most recently as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Perrin advises clients on matters presenting significant legal, political, and reputational risks. During the Biden Administration, Perrin served as the lead attorney on oversight matters across two federal agencies. In this capacity, he guided the development of strategic responses to congressional requests and subpoenas touching on a range of topics. Through his work in both government and private practice, Perrin has extensive experience preparing witnesses—including numerous corporate executives, cabinet secretaries, and other senior government officials—appearing in briefings, transcribed interviews, and hearings before congressional oversight committees.