

THE NATIONAL LAW JOURNAL



GOVERNMENT RELATIONS/ LOBBYING WINNER COVINGTON & BURLING



Covington & Burling offices in Washington, D.C.

Covington & Burling was named the winner of the National Law Journal Awards' Government Relations/Lobbying category. Read a Q&A submitted by Stephen Rademaker, senior of counsel at the firm, below.

Tell us about your most significant lobbying initiative.

Alsu Kurmasheva, a reporter for Radio Free Europe, was arrested in Russia in 2023 and

sentenced to over six years in prison. Covington engaged with the State Department, White House and Congress to advocate for her release. When it emerged that the administration was negotiating for release of higher-profile captives such as Evan Gershkovich and Paul Whelan, Covington worked to ensure that Kurmasheva would be



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included in the exchange. On Aug. 1, 2024, Kurmasheva was one of three U.S. citizens included in the largest prisoner exchange since the end of the Cold War. Approximately 20 other Americans were left behind.

Could you provide some tips that are crucial to government relations work?

Not all government officials can solve all problems. For any lobbying challenge, it is essential to identify the officials who are both in a position to provide a solution, and likely to be receptive to the arguments in favor of doing so. And because often different arguments appeal to different audiences, a critical skill is tailoring messages to the audience.