



# Political Law

Timely and Sophisticated  
Legal Counsel for Your  
Political and Lobbying  
Endeavors

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Attorney Advertising

# Political Law

## Establishing Corporate Policies and Compliance Systems

Politics is more important to business than ever, as government regulators assert themselves and public-sector clients present key growth opportunities. Mistakes made while lobbying, giving campaign contributions, and interacting with public-sector entities may wall-off future business opportunities, trigger severe criminal or civil penalties, and damage hard-earned reputations. Call Caplin & Drysdale's Political Law group when:

- Developing or reviewing corporate governance policies and compliance practices regarding political participation and contributions;
- Seeking advice on "pay-to-play" rules issued by the Securities & Exchange Commission and other entities;
- Tracking "procurement lobbying" compliance obligations in the course of pursuing business from state, county, or municipal entities;
- Conducting politically related internal investigations;
- Reviewing campaign contributions and gifts to federal, state, and local candidates and officeholders;
- Offering political-law training sessions for executives, staff, and other personnel; and
- Monitoring and reporting lobbying activities under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, Foreign Agents Registration Act, and comparable state laws.

## Responding to Political Law Investigations, Audits, and Complaints

In recent years, the Federal Election Commission, the Department of Justice, and state regulators have brought a considerable number of criminal and civil political-law cases against organizations and their officers. Full-scale audits of political contributions and lobbying activities are also common. Call Caplin & Drysdale's Political Law group when:

- Responding to a campaign-finance complaint, inquiry, or audit by the FEC, IRS, DOJ, or any state regulator;
- Preparing for a Government Accountability Office audit of federal lobbying activities;
- Replying to government inquiries, subpoenas, and summonses; and
- Developing coordinated press and legal defense strategies on political-law matters.

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## Establishing and Maintaining Political Organizations

Recent court decisions and pending legislation present a shifting legal landscape for all politically active corporations, organizations, and individuals. Strict compliance with these ever-changing rules is a must in order to avoid severe civil and criminal penalties in a realm where even an allegation of impropriety can devastate an organization or individual. Call Caplin & Drysdale's Political Law group when:

- Establishing a corporate PAC, "Super PAC," 527 organization, or 501(c)(4) entity;
- Seeking advice on workplace political activity in a corporate or trade association setting;
- Preparing disclosure reports for the FEC, IRS, or any state regulatory agency;
- Making political contributions to federal, state, and local candidates, which can trigger burdensome reporting obligations; and
- Implementing payroll deduction and charitable incentive programs for PAC contributors.

## Interacting with Officeholders and Sponsoring Officeholder Events

Government ethics rules restrict the nature and amount of gifts, employment offers, event hosting, travel sponsorships and other benefits that private individuals and organizations may confer on public officials. Prospective advice and training are essential for any organization that regularly interacts with government officials. Call Caplin & Drysdale's Political Law group when:

- Planning an event, a meal, or a fact-finding trip attended by federal or state public officials;
- Seeking advice on the Ethics in Government Act, congressional gift rules, or state ethics provisions;
- Responding to inquiries and complaints by federal, state, and local ethics bodies;
- Developing policies regarding the provision of gifts and meals to public officials.

Caplin & Drysdale's bipartisan Political Law group advises major businesses, trade associations, non-profits, candidates and activists.

## Contacting Government Officials and Employees

Federal and state government entities impose extensive registration and disclosure requirements on persons who lobby public officials. These requirements apply not only to outside “contract” lobbyists, but also to lobbyist clients and organizations that use internal employees to lobby federal, state, or local governments. Registered individuals and organizations may also be subject to their own disclosure obligations, as well as special restrictions on gifts and political contributions. Call Caplin & Drysdale’s Political Law group when:

- Tracking “procurement lobbying” compliance obligations in the course of pursuing business from state, county, or municipal entities;
- Monitoring and reporting lobbying activities under the Lobbying Disclosure Act, Foreign Agents Registration Act, and comparable state laws;
- Planning contacts with executive branch officials, legislators, and other government personnel;
- Preparing for a Government Accountability Office audit of federal lobbying activities;
- Reviewing lobbying disclosure practices in state and local government affairs departments; and
- Training lobbying personnel on government ethics rules.

Federal, state, and local laws that govern political activities are increasingly numerous and complex. Inappropriate or illegal political activity can hinder work on important policy issues, impact a corporation’s bottom line, or undermine promising careers. Caplin & Drysdale provides legal advice on the high-stakes legal issues that involve “pay-to-play” restrictions, lobbying regulations, campaign finance laws, and ethics rules.

# Partnering With Our Colleagues

Caplin & Drysdale's political law attorneys regularly partner with the firm's other practice groups, including:

- Complex Litigation
- Bankruptcy
- Business, Investment & Transactional Tax
- Corporate Law
- Employee Benefits
- Exempt Organizations
- International Tax
- Private Client
- Tax Controversies
- Tax Crimes
- Tax Litigation
- White Collar Defense

Contact us to learn more about our political law practice.

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