

Holland & Knight – The “Go To” Firm for the House, Senate and The White House

Holland & Knight has built a successful government affairs practice through our depth of experience and diversity – and by maintaining a bipartisan approach. While some firms fluctuate depending on which party is in power, Holland & Knight remains steady by nurturing longstanding relationships on both sides of the aisle while advocating on behalf of our clients.



When Democrats took control of the House and Senate in 2006 after 12 years of a Republican majority, Holland & Knight's clients continued to benefit from our bipartisan relationships with lawmakers; these established working relationships helped accomplish significant legislative achievements. On November 4, 2008, Democrats increased their majorities in the House and Senate, and Barack Obama was elected our next President of the United States. For the first time since 1994, Democrats will control both branches of government. Conventional wisdom is that such control will result in a sea change of legislation and regulation, including financial,

infrastructure, health care, energy policy, tax policy, education, homeland security needs, defense requirements and appropriations priorities, among many others.

The following is a brief synopsis of some of the working relationships that Holland & Knight attorneys and professionals enjoy with Congressional Democrats and the Obama White House. While it does not encompass the entirety of the firm's ties with Democrats, it does illustrate the depth of our relationships.

- Former Democratic Congressman **Gerry Sikorski** is the firm's Government Section leader and immediate past chairman of the firm's Board of Directors. Gerry served as a Democrat from Minnesota in the House of Representatives for 10 years (1983 to 1993) on the powerful House Energy and Commerce Committee – then chaired by Representative John Dingell – and with jurisdiction over telecommunications, trade, consumer protection, health, environment, securities, utilities and energy laws. He served with most of the House Chairs. Gerry also chaired the American Bar Association's Committee on Governmental Affairs.
- Partner **Jim Davis** joined Holland & Knight after serving as the U.S. Representative for Florida's 11th Congressional District since 1996. During his tenure, he was a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the House Budget Committee and the Committee on International Relations. Jim has strong associations with the Blue Dogs and New Democrats having worked closely with these groups during his service in Congress. He has extensive experience and established relationships regarding energy and commerce related issues.
- Senior policy advisor **Lynn Cutler** has a long history with Democratic leadership from her days as deputy assistant to the President for Intergovernmental Affairs in the Clinton White House. Her additional experience as vice chair of the Democratic National Committee for 12 years put her in day-to-day contact with Democratic leadership and members. She has worked closely with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, House Appropriations Chairman David Obey and Senate Majority Whip Richard Durbin, among many others.
- For the past 15 years, **John Buscher** has worked closely with Democratic members and staff as a legislative assistant to Senators Alan Dixon and Carol Moseley-Braun, and then as director of Governmental Affairs for United Airlines. His ties to Democrats reach up to the leaders in both the House and Senate, including Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Majority Whip Richard Durbin and Representatives Steny Hoyer, Rahm Emanuel and James Clyburn in the House. John has also developed longstanding relationships with key Senate committee chairs including Senators Daniel Inouye (Commerce), Patty Murray (Transportation/Treasury/HUD Appropriations) and Tom Harkin (Labor/HHS Appropriations), among others.
- Senior Policy Advisor **Beth Viola** served as senior advisor to the White House Council on Environmental Quality and was responsible for advising President Clinton and Vice President Gore on environmental and energy policy issues. Beth assisted the Kingdom of Bahrain in successfully negotiating its free trade agreement through Congress. This effort was dependent on a bipartisan approach and she maintains close ties to key Democrats in both chambers.

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- **Rich Gold** leads Holland & Knight's Public Policy & Regulation Practice and Budget & Appropriations Team. Rich worked under Senator Lloyd Bentsen and EPA Administrator Carol Browner for eight years and has extensive experience in the areas of legislative and environmental law. Since 2000, under his leadership, Holland & Knight has secured over \$3.4 billion in appropriations for its clients. Rich has worked on numerous industry-wide and company-specific complex regulatory and legislative initiatives involving EPA, DOE, the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Homeland Security and other policy areas.
- Partner **Shenan Atcitty** serves as the co-chair of the firm's Native American legal and lobbying practice based in Washington, D.C. Ms. Atcitty is an enrolled member of the Navajo Nation and has over 17 years of legal experience representing and working with Indian tribal governments in the areas of litigation, business and economic development, gaming, housing, health care, education, taxation and infrastructure development, as well as federal government affairs and Congressional lobbying. She lobbies on behalf of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the Rosebud Sioux Tribe and the Jicarilla Apache Nation. Her relationships with key Members in Congress have helped her Tribal clients in regards to their Washington, D.C. representation.
- **Janet Studley** is Holland & Knight's past Government Section leader. Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Janet was chief counsel to the Senate Subcommittee on Federal Spending Practices and Open Government, chaired by the late Senator Lawton Chiles. Janet focuses her practice on providing counsel to firm clients on federal legislation dealing with health care, environmental law, international communications, financial services, federal taxation and appropriations.
- Partner **Kathleen Nilles** served as tax counsel to the Committee on Ways & Means in the House of Representatives and then Select Revenue Measures Subcommittee Chairman Charles Rangel. She has worked on a wide variety of legislative tax issues – including tax issues relevant to tax-exempt organizations and governmental entities, federal excise taxes, energy tax incentives, insurance tax issues, pension and employee benefits issues, and international tax issues.
- **Karl Koch** joined Holland & Knight after serving as Chief of Staff for former Congressman Jim Davis. Karl's career in public service began in 1988 with his work for former Representative Buddy MacKay. In the 1990s, he worked on both campaigns for the late Governor Lawton Chiles and served as chief of staff for Lt. Governor Buddy Mackay. Karl also served as the Florida director for the Clinton/Gore presidential campaign in 1996.
- **Julie Minerva** spent nearly five years working for Representative Robert Matsui of California. At Holland & Knight, she has utilized that experience to promote client interests in appropriations, transportation, energy, water and trade policy. While her home ties are in California, Julie has developed relationships with key Democratic appropriations subcommittee staff in both chambers.
- Senior Policy Advisor **Shawna Watley** has over 14 years of public policy and political experience. Prior to joining Holland & Knight, Shawna held the position of director of Congressional Affairs for the Democratic Leadership Council. In this role, she was responsible for the development of strategy, programming and implementation for the Congressional Affairs Department. During her tenure she designed the *Meet the Freshman Series*, the weekly congressional newsletter, the organization's Congressional Agenda for the 21st Century, and the Global Economy Project.



Additionally, the Holland & Knight Committee for Effective Government is our firm's federal Political Action Committee (PAC). The firm itself remains neutral in partisan politics and elections. In recent election cycles, we ranked among the top three law firms in the total amount of contributions given to candidates for the U.S. House and Senate. Given the bipartisan nature of our PAC, we have consistently supported Democratic candidates since 2000 by giving them in excess of \$1.1 million during that time.

Every company, nonprofit, trade association and other advocacy group must be prepared for the change coming in Washington. Enormous challenges face America, and the new President and the Democratic majorities will be aggressive in responding with far-reaching policy and spending proposals. Holland & Knight principals have maintained strong relationships with House and Senate Democrats, Republicans, chairmen and ranking members, and staff for the past 12 years. As your "go-to" law firm, we are committed to advocating on your behalf and achieving successful results.