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# Corporate Political Activities Deskbook

By **Kenneth A. Gross, Ki P. Hong,**  
and **Patricia M. Zweibel**

*Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*

## 2018 Edition

*Corporate Political Activities Deskbook* provides a thorough grounding in the law of federal and state campaign finance, pay-to-play, lobbying, and gift compliance. It serves as a practical manual for attorneys who advise corporations about involvement in the political process, suggesting ways that corporations can utilize the available avenues of interacting with the government while avoiding negative press and legal regulatory attention.

Among the developments discussed in this update are:

**Trump ethics pledge:** Non-career political appointees to the executive branch of the Trump administration must sign an ethics pledge (“Trump Pledge”). The Trump Pledge replaces a similar ethics pledge that President Obama required for appointees, but with some key differences. The pledge covers prohibitions on the acceptance of gifts from registered lobbyists, and restricts appointees from working on matters involving a former client or employer for which the appointee worked, or on which the appointee lobbied, in the previous two years. The pledge also imposes certain restrictions on lobbying activity on appointees upon leaving government service. See chapter 6, *Federal Lobbying and Gift Laws*, section 6:12.3, retitled *President Trump’s Executive Order Gift Rule*.

**Ban on contributions by federal contractors:** In *Wagner v. FEC*, a federal contractor was fined a \$34,000 civil penalty for a \$200,000 contribution to a “super PAC,” which the Federal Election Commission (FEC) found to have violated the ban on federal contractor contributions under FECA. The penalty is significant because while the FEC previously suggested that the federal contractor ban applied to super PAC contributions, it had not previously found actual violations to have occurred, leaving open some question regarding the FEC’s appetite for imposing penalties for such contributions. See chapter 1, *Campaign Finance Under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (FECA)*, section 1:3.1, *Contractor Ban*.

In addition, the at-a-glance charts on state and federal laws related to government relations are updated. See chapter 4, *State Laws, Rules, and Policies Impacting Corporate*

*(continued on reverse)*

Practising Law Institute  
1177 Avenue of the Americas  
New York, NY 10036  
#239433

*Government Relations*, Appendix 4A, *Survey of Federal and State Lobbying Laws*, and Appendix 4B, *Survey of State Contribution Laws*. And throughout the book, urls for the websites of the FEC and other government agencies are updated.

Thank you for purchasing ***Corporate Political Activities Deskbook***. If you have questions about this product, or would like information on our other products, please contact customer service at [info@pli.edu](mailto:info@pli.edu) or at (800) 260-4PLI.