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Related Practice Areas

- Corporate Governance
- Election Law
- Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA)
- Government Ethics Compliance
- Lobbying and Grassroots Advocacy
- Non-Profit and Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Political Law
- Privacy Law

Steve Roberts Partner

Steve Roberts is a Partner at Holtzman Vogel, focusing his practice on lobbying compliance, campaign finance, and political committees. He is passionate about maximizing the ability of the corporate and PAC community to engage in the political and policy space. His legal advice is tailored for his clients who have to “get to yes” to effectively pursue their policy and political goals, including Fortune 500 companies, trade associations, corporate PACs, non-profit corporations, charities, elected officials, political candidates and campaigns, national party committees, and individuals engaged in issues at the federal, state, and local level.

As part of his practice, Steve advises clients on compliance strategies with federal, state and local lobbying laws, pay-to-play limitations, campaign finance restrictions and requirements, and gifts and entertainment limitations for government officials. In that role, he works with donors, corporations and trade associations on the Federal Election Campaign Act and the impacts of court and agency decisions altering campaign finance laws, the Lobbying Disclosure Act (LDA) and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act (HLOGA), the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA), as well as state and local corollary laws.

Steve also assists corporate clients with establishing and forming corporate and trade association PACs and provides guidance on best practices for success with those committees. He routinely aids clients in responding to the Federal Election Commission on compliance, enforcement and advisory matters. Additionally, he has prepared Senate, House, executive agency, and candidate financial disclosures ranking among the largest ever filed in the history of the Ethics in Government Act.

Steve is considered a subject matter expert on a host of issues that are highly pertinent to corporations engaged in grassroots advocacy and political engagement, including lobbying compliance and political engagement in an age of social media, tax-exempt organizations as advocacy tools, peer-to-peer texting as a way to energize existing and potential grassroots supporters, corporate political giving, and FARA compliance strategies. As a former registered lobbyist himself, he knows how to guide clients to strategies that are compliant and effective.

Additionally, Steve has designed and put into practice corporate compliance systems and policies for some of the world’s largest companies for federal, state and local lobbying tracking, as well as implemented institution-wide reporting systems for compliance with lobbying, campaign finance, and gifts laws.

In this moment at which the free speech rights of certain speakers—including organizations and their executives—are questioned by the public, the press, and even sometimes government officials, Steve finds opportunities for his clients to engage productively in political and lobbying activity.

Prior to joining the firm, Mr. Roberts spent several years at a global AmLaw 100 firm where he also practiced political law. Before law school, Mr. Roberts worked as a political consultant focusing on email fundraising and online advertising, and as a fundraiser at the Republican National Committee.

Education

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D.
- The George Washington University, B.A.

Bar & Court Admissions

- Virginia State Bar
- District of Columbia Bar

Representative Matters

- Establishing internal political and lobbying reporting, codes of conduct, and compliance guidelines for global companies with multi-division touchpoints with government officials
- Representing companies and their PACs through lobbying and political accounting audits with federal and state regulatory bodies
- Representing companies, public affairs firms, and tax-exempt organizations in matters related to FARA compliance, registration guidance, reporting and tracking activity, and Department of Justice audits
- Starting and growing corporate and trade association PACs, including crafting goal-oriented and workable bylaws, growing affinity and PAC match programs, and leading PACs through a corporate merger/reorganization

News & Insights

- Holtzman Vogel Sponsors Republican Strategy Session at REED Awards and Conference
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's February 2024 Round-up
- Steve Roberts Quoted in The Hill on FARA Law
- In-Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's Monthly Round-Up - January 2024
- Will Donald Trump Be Listed First on Republican Primary Ballots?
- Steve Roberts Quoted as a FARA Expert in The Hill Article on Menendez Case
- Holtzman Vogel Sponsors RNLA National Election Law Seminar; Jason Torchinsky and Steve Roberts Speakers
- Steve Roberts to Speak on Compliance Considerations for Using Social Media for PAC and Grassroots Engagement
- Campaign Filings and Financial Disclosures Due Soon
- FEC Rules Personal Use Prohibition Does Not Apply to Leadership PACs
- "If You Ain't First, You're Last": How State "Sore-Loser" Laws Make it Impossible for Trump to Run a Successful Third-Party Campaign if He Loses the Republican Primary
- State Proposed Bills Would Restrict Free Speech Rights, Add Duplicative Reporting
- Georgia State Legislator Requests Expanded Salary Options for Federal Candidates
- FEC Releases Increased Contribution Limits for the 2023-2024 Cycle
- FEC Seeks Public Comments Regarding Audit Process
- Top Ten Questions from Corporate and Trade Association Clients Approaching Midterms 2022
- Eking Out a Win? Corporate Political Activity in 2022
- Election Impact 2022 Webinar Series - Bang for Your Buck: Tools & Tactics to Maximize Political Spending
- 2022 State Primary Election Days, Ballot Qualifying and Filing Deadlines
- Election Impact 2022 Webinar Series - Drawing the Line: The Impact of Redistricting on the Shifting Political Landscape
- Federal court rules candidate loan limit unconstitutional
- A Primer on the Rules of 'Personal Use' for Campaign Funds

Community Involvement

- Guest Lecturer, The Graduate School of Political Management at the George Washington University
- Member, Republican National Lawyers Association
- Member, Capitol Hill Club
- Member, University Club of Washington

Awards & Recognition

- *Legal Bisnow*, "Trending 40 Lawyers Under 40"

Presentations/Events

- Frequent speaker for groups of public affairs and political industry professionals, including events hosted by:
 - The Public Affairs Council
 - The American Association of Political Consultants
 - Campaigns & Elections
 - The Republican National Lawyers Association
 - The California Political Treasurers Association
 - The American League of Lobbyists

Publications/Articles

- "'If You Ain't First, You're Last': How State 'Sore-Loser' Laws Make It Impossible For Trump To Run A Successful Third-Party Campaign If He Loses The Republican Primary", *Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy* (March 2023)
- *Corporate Counsel Magazine*, "Eeking Out A Win"
- *LinkedIn*, "Stay-at-Home Campaigns: Peer-to-peer texting's biggest moment yet", March 2020
- *LinkedIn*, "Federal Judge Invalidates IRS Nonprofit Donor Non-disclosure Policy", August 2019
- *LinkedIn*, "Personal Social Media of Government Officials Held to be a 'Public Forum' - What This Means for You", July 2019
- *LinkedIn*, "FARA Enforcement Continues to Expand: Federal Court finds Technical Service Provider Required to Register as Foreign Agent", May 2019
- "Recent Settlements Signal Increased Political Law Enforcement by Government Officials", Oct 5, 2015 (co-author)
- "A Guide to Political and Lobbying Activities", June 10, 2015 (co-author)
- "National Political Parties Get a Christmas Bonus: Major Campaign Finance Provisions in Must-Pass Legislation", December 2014 (co-author)