

# These GOP-Aligned Law Firms, Lobbying Shops Are Growing in Market Share

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August 4, 2025

### What You Need to Know

- Boutiques and lobbying shops with GOP ties are raking in business.
- Holtzman Vogel, a 50-plus person firm, is doubling its office space in D.C. as it sees growth in client demand.
- Ballard Partners rose to the top of the lobbying revenue rankings, surpassing a number of Big Law firms in Q2.

Business is booming for boutiques and lobbying shops with GOP ties and credentials, as they capitalize on their connections to power players in Washington and, in some cases, take market share from larger firms.

In particular, the power shift in Washington politics in 2025 has attracted more client work to GOP-aligned firms, as clients seek to navigate the new political climate.

"If you're known to be a firm when it's a Republican administration, and you're known to be a firm that works in that space, then I think clients are mindful of that," said Jill Holtzman Vogel, managing partner of Holtzman Vogel. "They're interested in people who have those good relationships, who know how it works, who know how to navigate the agencies and have relationships with the people who are in positions there. I think it gives them confidence."

The 50-plus-lawyer firm founded by Vogel is known for its political law work, building a reputation serving clients in Republican circles. Vogel herself led the Republican National Committee's legal efforts during



Photographer: Tierney L. Cross/Bloomberg

the 2004 presidential election and served 16 years in the Virginia State Senate.

Vogel said the firm has been growing its footprint and is currently in the process of doubling its office size in D.C. The firm opened a Miami office earlier this year and recently made investments in its Phoenix office.

"When the Trump administration started, and it was very, very clear that this was going to be potentially a massive reset across the whole regulatory climate," Vogel said, there was an "extraordinary opportunity now to sort of relitigate all kinds of matters, reconsider all these issues. If you look at the executive orders, I mean, everybody wants a seat at the table."

"More people are saying they need a presence in Washington," Vogel added. "And lucky for us, they need a lawyer."

Several Holtzman Vogel attorneys have recently joined the Trump administration, and the firm boasts several alumni of Trump's first term.

Former partner Drew Ensign is now deputy assistant attorney general for immigration litigation at the DOJ. Ensign was most recently in the spotlight as he represented the government in court over the deportation of Maryland man Kilmar Abrego Garcia. Another former Holtzman Vogel partner, William McGinley, worked as legal counsel to the Department of Government Efficiency until earlier this year, when he left his post and started his own firm.

It's been involved in a number of antisemitism cases. The firm filed a Title VI complaint against George Washington University this year on behalf of a cohort of Jewish students and is representing a Jewish-Israeli student at Harvard University assaulted on campus in criminal proceedings.

Several other GOP-aligned boutiques have also been picking up client matters in recent months, including Lex Politica, Stone Hilton, Consovoy McCarthy, Dhillon Law Group, and Clement & Murphy.

Lehotsky Keller Cohn, a 26-lawyer litigation boutique founded in February 2021, is representing Harvard in multiple suits against the Trump administration, including the suit filed over the president's decision to prohibit international students from enrolling in its school.

Firm founder Steven Lehotsky—a previous clerk to U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia—previously worked in the Bush administration as an attorney-adviser in the Office of Legal Counsel of the Justice Department from 2006-2009. Lehotsky also previously directed the litigation strategy of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Lehotsky Keller's position stands out, as its co-counsel representing Harvard against the Trump administration are Big Law firms, including Ropes & Gray, Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan, King & Spalding, and Jenner & Block.

On the lobbying front, Ballard Partners, a firm founded by Brian Ballard, a longtime Trump fundraiser and adviser, has seen its lobbying revenue skyrocket this year. Ballard Partners reported \$20.6 million in lobbying revenue in the second quarter of this year, more than four times as much as what the firm brought in during the same period last year, according to Lobbying Disclosure Act filings.

"Anytime there's a change in presidential administrations, there are going to be new policymakers that require stakeholders to assess and evaluate their advocacy teams," said Justin Sayfie, a partner at Ballard Partners. "And you know that's happened with the change in administration to President Trump, and it'll happen the next time there's a change in administration as well."

Ballard Partners overtook several Big Law firms with large lobbying practices that consistently top the LDA revenue rankings each quarter, including Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld.

Meanwhile, Will Moschella, co-chair of Brownstein's government relations department, contended that "proof of our continued success is the surge in revenue we saw starting in the first Trump administration."

"Since the beginning of 2017, we've seen nearly a 180% increase in our LDA revenue. What our clients look for is our ability to deliver results. We've built our success on hiring best-in-class talent, building relationships that benefit our clients' evolving needs and having the ability to address our clients' biggest issues not only through lobbying efforts but also regulatory, legal and public affairs approaches," Moschella said in a statement.

Several former lobbyists for Ballard are now in the Trump administration, including Attorney General Pam Bondi, White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles and Trent Morse, who is Trump's deputy director of personnel.

Since Election Day last year, Ballard Partners has filed registrations for more than 150 new lobbying clients, according to LDA filings. Ballard Partners has registered to lobby for JPMorgan Chase, Chevron, Ripple, Netflix, and the governing body of Harvard University, among other clients.

Other lobbying firms with GOP ties have also had rising lobbying revenue, including Miller Strategies, which is headed by Jeff Miller, who served as a finance chair on Trump's second inaugural committee; and Mercury Public Affairs, whose alumni include White House Chief of Staff Susie Wiles.