

Robert Kelner

Robert Kelner is a partner at Covington & Burling LLP, in Washington, D.C., where he chairs the firm's Election and Political Law Practice Group. He counsels clients on a wide range of political law and government ethics matters, and defends them in civil and criminal law enforcement investigations concerning political activity. He also leads the firm's prominent congressional investigations practice. Mr. Kelner is a leading authority on the Foreign Agents Registration Act, as well as federal and state campaign finance and lobbying disclosure laws. He has defended numerous corporations and individuals in investigations by the U.S. Department of Justice's National Security Division and Public Integrity Section, the Federal Election Commission, Offices of Inspector General, and other federal and state agencies. In his congressional investigations practice, he has represented clients before every major congressional investigation committee, as well as the House and Senate Ethics Committees. He is ranked by Chambers USA as one of the top political law and congressional investigations attorneys in the country.

Mr. Kelner serves as Chair of Covington's Professional Responsibility Committee and as a general counsel of the firm. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Law at the Georgetown University Law Center, where he teaches legal ethics. He is a past member of the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Election Law and served as Chairman of the District of Columbia Bar's Legislative Practice Committee.

Mr. Kelner graduated from Princeton University with High Honors in Politics and Russian Studies and from the University of Virginia School of Law, where he served as Executive Editor of the Virginia Law Review. He clerked for Judge Jose Cabranes on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.