



Virginia Office

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Related Practice Areas

- Corporate Governance
- Election Law
- Government Ethics Compliance
- Lobbying and Grassroots Advocacy
- Non-Profit and Tax-Exempt Organizations
- Political Law

Matthew Petersen

Partner

Matthew Petersen is a partner with Holtzman Vogel and a former Chairman of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) with over two decades of high-level legal experience in political and administrative law. Matt, who also previously served in senior staff positions in both houses of Congress, is recognized nationally for his expertise in campaign finance, elections, lobbying, free speech, and government ethics.

Matt was nominated to the FEC by President George W. Bush in 2008 and served as its Chairman in 2010 and 2016.

- Following the Supreme Court’s opinion in Citizens United v. FEC, he played a large role in shaping the legal framework governing Super PACs (and candidate involvement in their fundraising activities) and corporate and union political speech.
- He strongly advocated protecting the Internet as a tool for political speech and allowing emerging technologies to develop free of unnecessary regulation.
- He helped draft new procedures affording enhanced rights for those involved in FEC enforcement matters, audits, and advisory opinion requests.

Prior to his FEC service, Matt served as Republican chief counsel to the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration (2005-08) and counsel to the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration (2002-05).

- He was extensively involved in the crafting of the Help America Vote Act of 2002, the sweeping election reform bill passed in the wake of the 2000 presidential recount.
- He was chief adviser to the Republican floor manager during the Senate debate on the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, the most recent comprehensive revision of federal lobbying and government ethics laws.

Education

- University of Virginia School of Law, J.D., 1999
 - Member, Virginia Law Review
- Brigham Young University, *magna cum laude*, 1996, B.A
- Utah Valley University, A.S., *high honors*

Bar & Court Admissions

- Utah Bar

- District of Columbia Bar (Matthew's practice is limited to matters of federal law.)

Clerkship/Government Experience

- Former Chairman, Federal Election Commission (nominated by President George W. Bush in 2008)
- Republican Chief Counsel, Senate Committee on Rules and Administration (2005-08)
- Counsel, U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration (2002-05).

News & Insights

- In-Compliance: December 2024 Round-Up
- Union and Its PAC Hit with Hefty Penalty for Unauthorized Deductions and Failure to Provide Required Notices
- A Lookback at the Federal Election Commission in 2024
- In-Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's November 2024 Round-Up
- FEC Advisory Opinion Requests: Fundraising, Election Advertisements and Use of Campaign Funds for Dependent Care Expenses
- In Compliance - Holtzman Vogel's September 2024 Round-Up
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's July 2024 Round-Up
- In Compliance: June 2024 Round-Up
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's May 2024 Round-Up
- FEC Authorizes Federal Candidates and Officeholders to Solicit Unlimited Funds for State Ballot Initiative Committees
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's April 2024 Round-Up
- In Compliance Newsletter: March 2024 Round-up
- FEC Update with Matt Petersen: Election Canvassing and Coordination
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's February 2024 Round-up
- FEC Update with Matt Petersen: Non-Federal Transfers to Federal Candidates and Reporting Implications
- In Compliance: Holtzman Vogel's Monthly Round-Up - January 2024
- FEC Allows Federal Candidates and Officeholders to Establish State Leadership PACs: Advisory Opinion Authorizes Additional Committees with Separate Contribution Limits
- FEC Update with Matt Petersen: Prosecutorial Discretion and Judicial Review
- FEC Releases Increased Contribution Limits for the 2023-2024 Cycle
- Top Ten Questions from Corporate and Trade Association Clients Approaching Midterms 2022
- A Decade later, Citizens United Yields Election Benefits
- Federal court rules candidate loan limit unconstitutional

Community Involvement

- American Bar Association
 - Election Law Committee, Member
- Republican Lawyers Association
 - Board of Governors, Member

Publications/Articles

- "Election Officials Need Resources and Flexibility, Not Federal Mandates," *The Hill*, April 13, 2020. [View Link](#)
- "A Decade Later, Citizens United Yields Election Benefits," *Real Clear Politics*, June 15, 2021 [View Link](#)