

# Washington Insight



May 22, 2012

## **An Insider's View - More on Campaign Subplots**

*Robert L. Ehrlich*

Tea Party influence within GOP primary races continues to be a hot topic of conversation on Capitol Hill. [More »](#)

## **The Congressional Calendar - So Much To Do, So Little Time**

*Thomas J. Spulak*

The House of Representatives is in recess this week in advance of Memorial Day. Next week, while the House will return for a few days, the Senate will begin a week's recess of its own. [More »](#)

## **Heading Towards a Debt Ceiling Standoff, Part II**

*George C. Crawford*

While the Treasury Department says that the current debt ceiling will be sufficient to get through the election this fall without the need for Congressional action, there is the possibility that House Republicans will try to accelerate action into the election cycle. [More »](#)

## **Paul Volcker Testifies on His Rule**

*J.C. Boggs*

Former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker testified before the Senate Banking Committee on May 9<sup>th</sup>, arguing that the current proposal for the Dodd-Frank Act's ban on proprietary trading is too complex and should allow for profitable market-making activities. [More »](#)

## **Senate Moves to Prohibit Disclosure of Contributions by Government Contractors**

*Thomas J. Spulak, Claudia A. Hrvatin*

On May 16<sup>th</sup>, the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee favorably reported the Keeping Politics Out of Federal Contracting Act of 2011, a bill introduced by Senator Susan Collins (R-ME) to prohibit the disclosure of political contributions by those seeking government contracts. The legislation is intended to rebut a draft Obama Administration executive order circulated in 2011 but never finalized. [More »](#)

## **CFPB on Mortgage Points and Fees**

*J.C. Boggs, William C. Talmadge*

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) on May 9<sup>th</sup> outlined

## **In The News**

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Senate Hearing on Legislation to Promote Clean Energy - Could Preempt the EPA from Regulating Greenhouse Gases

Congress Moves Forward with Legislation to Reauthorize FDA User Fees

Innovating with Less: Examining Efforts to Reform Information Technology Spending

## **Dates to Know**

proposed rules it is considering aimed at simplifying mortgage points and fees in an effort to bring greater transparency to the mortgage loan origination market. [More »](#)

### [Senate Hearing on Legislation to Promote Clean Energy - Could Preempt the EPA from Regulating Greenhouse Gases](#)

*Thomas J. Spulak, Allison F. Kassir, Lauren M. Donoghue*

The Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee held a hearing on its retiring Chairman's effort to drive a discussion of how best to encourage the use of clean energy sources by utilities. Such a measure could advance the greater use and deployment of renewables, such as wind and solar, as well as other clean energy sources at no cost to the government. [More »](#)

### [Congress Moves Forward with Legislation to Reauthorize FDA User Fees](#)

*Lauren M. Donoghue, Daniel F. Donovan*

Legislation to reauthorize the fees paid by drug and device manufacturers to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is front and center on the Congressional calendar this month and is expected to pass both chambers in the coming weeks. [More »](#)

### [Innovating with Less: Examining Efforts to Reform Information Technology Spending](#)

*J.C. Boggs*

The Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, Federal Services, and International Security has scheduled a hearing on May 24<sup>th</sup> to examine efforts by the Obama administration to cut wasteful and inefficient spending on the Federal Government's Information Technology (IT) infrastructure through data center consolidations, cloud computing, and several other initiatives. [More »](#)

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## Contacts

Thomas J. Spulak  
tspulak@kslaw.com  
+1 202 661 7948

Theodore M. Hester  
thester@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2901

Robert L. Ehrlich  
rehlich@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 9710

Lloyd N. Hand  
lhand@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2931

J.C. Boggs  
jboggs@kslaw.com  
+1 202 626 2383

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**Countdown to Republican convention:** 97 days

**Countdown to Democratic convention:** 104 days

**Countdown to Election Day:** 168 days

## Contacts

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