

Pablo E. Carrillo

Of Counsel

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About Pablo

Pablo E. Carrillo is a senior member of the firm's Public Policy Practice Group, and a key defense and national security advisor in its International Trade & Foreign Investment and Government Contracts practice areas. Pablo also supports the firm's Government Investigations & White Collar Practice Group, and is a top practitioner in congressional oversight and investigations (O&I), guiding clients through high stakes, high visibility scrutiny from Capitol Hill.

Pablo's O&I work is grounded in more than a decade of senior investigative leadership in Congress. As minority general counsel to the Senate Armed Services Committee (SASC), he directed major oversight efforts into defense acquisition failures, contractor misconduct and government accountability. He led two of the most consequential congressional investigations of the past generation: a US\$30 billion Air Force tanker leasing scandal, which resulted in multiple federal convictions, and the Abramoff lobbying investigation, which yielded more than 20 guilty pleas and convictions, including those of a member of Congress and a senior Executive Branch official. These investigations helped establish modern congressional expectations for ethics, procurement integrity and executive branch accountability.

Pablo later served as chief of staff to US Senator John McCain, then chairman of SASC and former presidential nominee. In that role, he managed the senator's Washington and Arizona offices, oversaw a multimillion dollar budget and advanced McCain's legislative and oversight priorities. In addition to helping ensure the annual enactment of the National Defense Authorization Act, he also served as the principal Republican negotiator of landmark acquisition and industrial base reforms, including the Weapon Systems Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 and reforms to the national security space launch program, modernizing how the Department of Defense engages with the commercial sector and approaches competition, cost control and innovation.

Today, Pablo advises high profile individuals, global companies and emerging technology firms facing congressional investigations, often in politically charged environments. His work frequently involves matters before the House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party, the House Oversight & Reform Committee and the House Energy & Commerce Committee, where he helps clients navigate complex document requests, briefing demands and hearing preparation in parallel with regulatory and enforcement risks.

In his broader policy practice, Pablo represents corporate and sovereign clients on national security, international trade and finance matters before the Department of Defense, Department of Commerce and Department of Treasury, as well as the Export Import Bank of the US. He regularly advises clients on federal regulatory, enforcement and procurement frameworks. He also maintains a strong *pro bono* commitment to climate change and human rights advocacy.

Pablo is a frequent contributor to the firm's *Capital Thinking – Global Public Policy Insights* blog, writing on trade, investment, technology and national security policy. A native of New Orleans, Pablo served as senior managing editor of the *Tulane Law Review* and began his legal career in admiralty law, representing maritime clients throughout the litigation lifecycle. He previously served as a judicial extern to the late Chief Judge Morey Sear of the US District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Credentials

Education

- Tulane University Law School, J.D., Managing Editor, *Tulane Law Review*, 1997
- Tulane University, B.A., 1992

Admissions

- Louisiana, 1997

Memberships & Affiliations

- Non-resident Fellow, Global Fellowship Initiative, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (Geneva, Switzerland)
- Former, Board Member, R Street Institute (Washington DC)
- Former, Strategic Policy Advisor, Silicon Valley Defense Working Group (Mountain View, Silicon Valley, California)

Expertise

Services

- Public Policy
- International Trade & Foreign Investment
- Government Investigations & White Collar

Publications & Speaking Engagements

- Featured speaker, "Staff & Fellows Briefing – Economic Security Is National Security," Geneva Centre for Security Policy, January 2023.
- Panelist, "Virtual Training Webinar – Oversight & Investigations: What It Means and How to Make It Work," Project on Government Oversight – Congressional Oversight Initiative, January 2023.
- Panelist, "Webinar – Midterm Elections Outlook," US-China Business Council, October 2022.
- Interviewee, "Podcast – Portrait in Congressional Oversight & Investigations: Senator McCain's Investigation of Abramoff Lobbying Scandal," Levin Center for Oversight & Democracy at Wayne State University Law School, in conjunction with McCain Institute at Arizona State University and the US Capitol Historical Society, September 2022.
- Author, "Closing the Gap Between the Pentagon and Innovators," *The Hill*, January 27, 2018.

- Author, "Commercial Dual-Use Technologies in Defense Acquisition Reform," R Street Institute, December 2017.

About our firm

One of the world's strongest integrated law firms, providing insight at the point where law, business and government meet. We deliver commercially focused business solutions by combining our legal, lobbying and political capabilities and invaluable connections on the ground to a diverse mix of clients, from long-established leading corporations to emerging businesses, startup visionaries and sovereign nations. More than 1,500 lawyers in over 40 offices across four continents provide unrivaled access to expertise.