

POLITICO

How to help your boss survive an investigation

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February 28, 2018

FIRST IN PI — HOW TO HELP YOUR BOSS SURVIVE AN

INVESTIGATION: Covington & Burling is out with a new report on how congressional chiefs of staff should handle investigations into their bosses — a topic with special resonance in a Congress that has seen three members resign in the wake of sexual harassment accusations and another three decline to run for reelection. “In fast-paced, high-stakes, and potentially politicized investigations of members of Congress or their staff, chiefs of staff must make smart decisions, very early in the process, based on limited information,” the lawyers write. (The lead author, Covington’s **Robert Kelner**, has drawn attention in recent months for serving as **Michael Flynn**’s lawyer.) “The consequences of even a small mistake at the outset can be very significant and long-lasting. Chiefs would be wise to spend a little bit of time now thinking about how they would react to an investigation in the first critical hours and beyond.” **Here’s the full report.**

Good afternoon, and welcome to PI. Tips: mlevine@politico.com and tmeyer@politico.com. You can also follow us on Twitter: [@theodoricmeyer](https://twitter.com/theodoricmeyer) and [@marianne_levine](https://twitter.com/marianne_levine).

FIRST IN PI — SPG SIGNS BAHRAIN: SPG, the “private diplomacy” firm that has expanded rapidly since President **Donald Trump**’s election, has signed the government of Bahrain as a client. The firm “will facilitate meetings and interactions with U.S. administration officials,” according to a registration filing provided to PI. **Jacob Daniels**, one of the SPG lobbyists who will represent Bahrain, was a top staffer on Trump’s campaign in Michigan. “We are honored to be working with our friends from Bahrain and their Ambassador **Abdullah Khalifa**,” **Robert Stryk**, SPG’s founder, wrote in an email. “Bahrain has an amazing story to share about their people, their diversified economy and their import as a vital U.S. ally led by H.M. King **Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa**.”

INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN? MAYBE NEXT YEAR: Lobbyists voiced little surprise that Senate Majority Whip **John Cornyn** (R-Texas) thinks getting an infrastructure bill across the finish line this year will be tough. “I think people were pretty skeptical about something getting done this year,” **Steve Elmendorf**, founder and partner at **Subject Matter**, told PI. Instead, he said, he is advising clients to start thinking about what a bipartisan infrastructure plan could look like if the Democrats take back the House in November. Even if the proposal takes more time to come together, lobbyists do not appear discouraged. **Julie Minerva**, a partner at **Carpi and Clay** said she doesn’t see “the broader infrastructure community backing away from this issue just because it’s going to take a little longer.” One Republican lobbyist described 2018 as the “year to build momentum on infrastructure.” The **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**’s **Ed Mortimer** told PI that in spite of Cornyn’s remarks, the trade group will continue to advocate for a broader infrastructure plan. “We’re not backing down one inch in our advocacy,” he said,

adding that “there’s always bumps in the road, but it’s not going to deter us from continuing all of our efforts to move this discussion forward.”

—But just because a large infrastructure plan may not come fruition this year doesn’t mean that smaller proposals won’t make it through Congress. Infrastructure lobbyists are paying attention to the Water Resources Development Act, which authorizes water projects. Among the infrastructure issues that could come up are changes to the Inland Waterways Trust Fund and the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund.

PEBBLE PARTNERSHIP SIGNS SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS: The Pebble

Partnership has signed **Squire Patton Boggs** to lobby on “administration consideration and approvals related to the Pebble Mine,” according to a recent disclosure filing. The group has a controversial proposal to build a mine in Alaska. **Peter Gould, Edward Newberry** and **Lem Smith** will work on the issue. Squire Patton Boggs is not the only firm lobbying for the mine. The Pebble Partnership hired **Gavel Resources** earlier this year, and they also retain **Akim Gump** and **Van Ness Feldman**. In addition, the company increased its lobbying expenditures in the fourth quarter of 2017. According to Senate disclosures, the group spent \$430,000 on lobbying, compared to \$80,000 in the third quarter and \$130,000 in the fourth quarter of 2016.

ONE CAMPAIGN LOBBIES CONGRESS: Members of the **ONE Campaign**, which was founded by U2’s **Bono**, went to Capitol Hill Tuesday to meet with lawmakers about the budget for international affairs and to voice support for bipartisan legislation that would create a single international development finance corporation. More than 150 people met with lawmakers including Reps. **Beta O’Rourke** (D-Texas) and **Seth Moulton** (D-Mass.) and Sens. **John Boozman** (R-Ark.), **Todd Young** (R-Ind.) and **James Risch** (R-Idaho), along with 200 other Senate and House offices.

CATO BOARD MEMBER FACES SPOUSAL ABUSE CHARGE: “A board member at the libertarian **Cato Institute** is facing criminal charges of assaulting a family member in Texas, as his wife claims he held her down, choked her, head-butted her and bit her in the face, according to court documents of the May 2017 incident,” **POLITICO’s Maggie Severns** and **Daniel Lippman** report. “**Preston Marshall**, a 44-year-old investor who was involved in high-profile lawsuits over his family’s estate with Anna Nicole Smith, pleaded not guilty to assaulting his wife. His wife, Anastasia Marshall, has initiated divorce proceedings. Marshall has been on the Cato board since 2012, when he was appointed with the support of **Charles and David Koch**, who are major Cato funders. **Bob Levy**, chairman of the board of the Cato Institute, said that ‘neither I nor Cato President Peter Goettler were aware of the criminal charges brought last year against Cato board member Preston Marshall’ prior to an inquiry from POLITICO. ‘If Mr. Marshall is found guilty of these allegations, we will certainly call on him to step down from the board or, if necessary, ask the board of directors to remove him.’” Full story.

JOBS REPORT

— **Kirtan Mehta** is leaving the **American Bankers Association** to lead New Jersey Gov. **Phil Murphy**’s D.C. office.

— **Shannon Crawford** is director of state government affairs at the **Plastics Industry Association**. She was previously state legislative advocate at the **National Association of Surety Bond Producers**.

— **Tamara Hinton** is now senior vice president at **Story Partners**. Prior to that, she ran her own firm.

SPOTTED: At the opening of **3M**'s new "Innovation Center" on K Street on Tuesday, according to a PI tipster: House Speaker **Paul Ryan**; Sens. **Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minn.), **Tina Smith** (D-Minn.), **Bill Cassidy** (R-La.), **Todd Young**(R-Ind.); Reps. **Jason Lewis** (R-Minn.), **Brian Higgins** (D-N.Y.) and **Dan Donovan**(R-N.Y.); **Michael Kratsios**, the deputy assistant to the president for science and technology policy; Lt. Gen. **Robert Walsh**; **Brittany Masalosalo** of Vice President **Mike Pence**'s office; **Tom Donohue** of the **U.S. Chamber of Commerce**; **Eric Fanning** of the **Aerospace Industries Association**; Wisconsin Attorney General **Brad Schimel**; West Virginia Attorney General **Patrick Morrissey**; **Scott Styles** of **FTI Consulting**; **Nadeam Elshami** of **Signal Group**; **Heather Podesta** of **Invariant**; and **Inge Thulin**, the president and chief executive of **3M**.

NEW JOINT FUNDRAISERS:

None

NEW PACs:

American Craft Spirits Association (PAC)

NEW LOBBYING REGISTRATIONS:

Alignment Government Affairs: Woolpert

Butzel Long, P.C.: Schuman, Inc.

Covington & Burling LLP: Elbit Systems of America, LLC

Davidoff Hutcher & Citron, LLP: City of Bend, Oregon

Emergent Strategies: AWL Inc.

Emergent Strategies: Metrolina Landscaping

Emergent Strategies: Online Lenders Alliance

Illinois Institute of Technology: Illinois Institute of Technology

Squire Patton Boggs: The Pebble Partnership

Van Scoyoc Associates: Valencia College

NEW LOBBYING TERMINATIONS:

Fernando Aguirre: Beagle Freedom Project

Fernando Aguirre: Joe Dwyer