

# Washington Insight



June 26, 2013

## **King & Spalding Partners Address Political Intelligence Industry**

*Thomas J. Spulak*

The practice of obtaining information from government sources that later becomes part of the investment decision-making process has been a concern to some in the last decade or so. Recent events involving the run-up in the price of securities of companies in the insurance industry after it was discovered that information favorable to the industry was disclosed by executive and legislative branch employees have invigorated the discussion, as well as initiating investigations by the SEC, DOJ, and Congress. [More »](#)

## **On the Politics of Immigration Reform**

*Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich*

The media loves to attach political labels to often complex issues. Such monikers allow the press to create and define highly charged terms ("pro-life"; "pro-choice"; "pro-gun"; "anti-gun", etc.). The exercise is also useful for keeping score, and there is nothing the press likes more than keeping track of who's ahead and who's not. [More »](#)

## **Appropriations and Sequester – Laying Down Markers**

*George C. Crawford*

With no budget framework in place, the House and the Senate are both marching to their own drummers and producing appropriations bills based on spending levels detailed in their respective budget outlines. What they have in common is their blatant ignoring of the spending levels contained in the Budget Control Act of August 2011 (BCA). [More »](#)

## **The Congressional Appropriations Process - Rewriting the Rules**

*Thomas J. Spulak, Sara E. Peters, Lauren M. Donoghue*

During the coming summer months, Congress will focus its attention on the appropriations process—an annual exercise that, ideally, ends with a determination of funding for the federal government for the following fiscal year (October 1 through September 30). Congress does this through the passage of a series of twelve bills, each of which funds a specific area of the government, e.g., Defense programs, Agriculture programs, Energy and Water programs, etc.. [More »](#)

## **U.S. House of Representatives Passes Derivatives Legislation**

*J.C. Boggs*

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The House recently passed four discrete bills that address particular issues with the derivatives provisions of Dodd-Frank, including legislation to ensure there is a clear end-user exemption and legislation to address the extraterritorial application of the Commodity Future Trading Commission (CFTC)'s rules. A key thrust of the 2010 overhaul was to put new regulatory reins on derivatives, traded in a \$700 trillion global market that has largely escaped supervision until now. [More »](#)

### **Congressional Interest Regarding Non-Profit Hospital Executive Compensation**

*Daniel F. Donovan, Lauren Slive, Lauren M. Donoghue*

On June 16, Kaiser Health News, in collaboration with ABC News, released an article focusing on compensation of executives at non-profit hospital systems. Kaiser Health News obtained compensation information for CEOs at numerous top non-profit and government-supported hospital systems for 2011 or 2012. [More »](#)

### **King & Spalding Hosts Cybersecurity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Forum**

*J.C. Boggs*

On May 21, 2013, King & Spalding hosted a *Washington Insight* event on cybersecurity and critical infrastructure protection, which gathered a distinguished panel of speakers to discuss the ever present threat of cyber-attacks and need for increased cybersecurity. Cases involving cybersecurity are seen in the news every day and have become more and more prevalent as technology becomes a larger factor in the work place. [More »](#)

### **Immigration – Full Steam Ahead in the Senate, Another Breaking of the Hastert Rule on Tap in the House?**

*George C. Crawford*

While the Senate has taken important first steps in considering a comprehensive immigration bill, progress in the House has been more halting. The Senate voted overwhelming to proceed to consideration of the bill and while there were many controversial amendments, early signs are that the Senate Gang of Eight may be able to fend off efforts that would further complicate passage of the bill. [More »](#)

### **Supreme Court Rules on Validity of Patents for Genetic Information**

*William C. Talmadge*

On June 13, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down a ruling in *Association for Molecular Pathology et. al. v. Myriad Genetics*, the outcome of which was considered crucial in the development of genetic research. [More »](#)

### **Using Cloud Computing to Build Next-Generation Government Services**

As Congress considers approaches to transform the way the federal government acquires and utilizes information technology, the themes of "doing more for less" and "open data" have been advanced by many, including Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee Chairman Tom Carper (D-DE). [More »](#)

Build Next-Generation  
Government Services

### **For Further Reading**

The IRS: Too Eager to  
Please?

Tax Reform 2013: It Could  
Happen

Commentary: Energy Policy  
and Tax Policy are  
Inseparable

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