



John A. Merrigan

Partner

CO-CHAIR, FEDERAL LAW AND POLICY

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John Merrigan has extensive legal and political experience.

John has played a leading role in building one of the nation's premier federal law practices, formulating and executing successful strategies to advance or protect clients' interests.

John is co-chair of DLA Piper's Federal Law and Policy practice group, which consists of over 40 lawyers and professionals seasoned in governmental practice and is ranked consistently by leading publications in the top tier among federal law firms. DLA Piper's federal law and policy clients include numerous Fortune 100 corporations, various domestic and foreign governments, and other entities.

John also has led the way in integrating DLA Piper's governmental capabilities with DLA Piper's nationally recognized transactional and litigation practices, with extensive experience representing clients in congressional and related investigations.

John is a member of DLA Piper's firmwide Policy Committee.

- Regulatory and Government Affairs

Admissions

- District of Columbia

Prior Experience

In 1973, John began practicing law at a DLA Piper legacy firm, founding the federal affairs practice with Berl Bernhard and Harry McPherson. For 30 years he helped to build the group and attract top lawyers and government professionals into the firm, eventually developing what *Fortune* magazine, *The National Journal* and other leading publications described as the leading federal affairs firm in the nation's capital. Among the government figures who eventually joined the firm were former Majority Leaders George Mitchell and Bob Dole, former Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, former Senator Dan Coats, and former Governors Ann Richards, Jim Blanchard and John Waihee. A cover article in *The National Journal* labeled the Verner Liipfert federal affairs group "the dream team." As practice group chair, John played a pivotal role in building and managing the firm's practice.

Recognitions

John is consistently listed by *Legal Times* among Washington's *Super Lawyers*, Washington, DC's Best Lawyers and *The Best Lawyers in America*.

- *Chambers USA*
2021 - Band 2, Nationwide Government Relations
Chambers comments, "John Merrigan maintains his stellar reputation for acting for foreign governments and large corporates in Congressional and other related investigations. He is also adept at advising on tax issues." Clients say, "He is a fantastic lawyer who focuses on the end result and is capable of seeing all the tools and avenues for getting there." "A fine lawyer and great lobbyist, who is personable and clever about strategy."
2012-20 - Band 2, Nationwide Government Relations

Education

- J.D., Loyola University Chicago 1973
cum laude
- A.B., Georgetown University 1970

Memberships

- American Bar Association
- Chair, Democratic Business Council, Democratic National Committee
- Member, The George Washington University's National Council for Political Management
- Board of Advisors, George Washington University Graduate School of Political Management
- Board Member, Children Uniting Nations

Other Accomplishments

John participates actively in a variety of capacities within the National Democratic Party. From 1996 until 2000, he served as chairman of the Democratic Business Council, the leading forum for business interests within the Democratic National Party. From 2002 through 2004 he served as Middle Atlantic Finance chairman in the Kerry for President Campaign.

INSIGHTS

Publications

Federal agencies, Congress accelerate defense against cyber attacks – every private company will be affected

21 Mar 2012

Events

John presented at The Washington Legal Foundation's briefing on the Alien Tort Statute. The presentation is available for viewing by clicking this link and selecting the low speed or high speed link under the program's title - "The Alien Tort Statute of 1789: Trial Lawyers' Latest Mass Litigation Weapon."
