



### 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.

- International Trade, 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

The respected publication *Chambers USA* has repeatedly identified John as one of the nation's leading practitioners in the field of government relations. It has called him a "deeply respected" practitioner, "an extremely smart, strong and likeable attorney," and an "eminent name" in the government relations sphere. Clients have described him as "a fine man and a fine lobbyist," "a veteran government relations practitioner lauded by peers for his rich experience," and have praised his "wonderfully collaborative approach and his focus on his clients' objectives." Clients reported that he "has excellent judgment and strong intuition in political matters," and the directory emphasized that John is a "well-connected strategist" with "very senior-level contacts—the direct legislators themselves."

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

## 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

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### Publications

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

21 Mar 2012

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### 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."