

U.S. Federal Government



Alex Dahl

CEO and Founder, Strategic Policy Counsel, PLLC

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"Expert evidence" is responsible for most of the large jury verdicts in recent news, including cases about talc, pharmaceuticals and weed killers. Now, the Federal Advisory Committee on Evidence Rules is inviting public comment on a proposed amendment to Rule 702, which sets the standards for admissibility of expert testimony. Read about the amendment and how you can engage in the rulemaking process here: <https://bit.ly/36zrxRG>

U.S. Congress

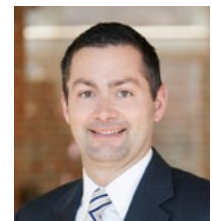


Jon Deuser

President and CEO, The Smith-Free Group

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"Keep eyes on the prize: House committee activity this week on the budget bill is worth monitoring, but it's mostly an exercise in passing something -- anything -- to be able to say the House has acted. The ultimate bill, if there is one, will still be what can garner 50 votes in the Senate. On the tax front, watch issues that are "dialable" -- where rates can be simply ratcheted up or down -- for last minute changes. This includes the C Corp rate which could wiggle between 25% and 28% before a final bill is adopted."



Andy Keiser

Principal, Navigators Global

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"Top of mind for this week is the pending lapse in government funding at the end of the fiscal year September 30, 2021. Who will blink first in the high-stakes stare down between Congressional Democratic and Republican leaders over a potential government shutdown or default on the federal debt? Beyond that, how do policymakers in Washington work to secure key economic and national security supply chains like semiconductors?"



Katie Harbath

Founder and CEO, Anchor Change

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with Katie

“On the elections front this week keep an eye on the California recall election and the expected audit release from Maricopa County. In California some candidates and others are already pushing questions of fraudulent voting and if the results are close, we could see a repeat of accusations, lawsuits and newstories that we saw following November. In Arizona this audit has been the subject of much controversy and could impact the protests in DC on the 18th.”

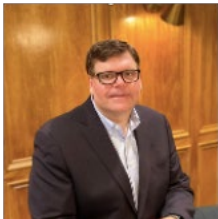


Aaron Harris

Senior Counsel and Principal, Michael Best Strategies

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"House Approves State Energy Overhaul. Yesterday, House lawmakers passed SB2408 to eliminate Illinois carbon emissions by 2050, with a compromise allowing two-coal-fired plants to stay open until 2045 with the caveat that they cut emissions by nearly half 2035. The bipartisan climate change legislation passed 83-33, easily surpassing the 71 votes it needed to get over the finish line. Eleven Republicans voted in favor of the measure. It now heads to the Senate, which is expected to vote on it Monday when the chamber convenes in Springfield (it's a version of the Senate bill, tweaked, that was passed by the House last night). Governor Pritzker has already vowed to sign the 'historic bill' as soon as possible, because our planet and the people of Illinois ought not wait any longer."



Patrick Jennings

Managing Partner, Commonwealth Alliances

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with Patrick

“The Kentucky legislature wrapped up a special called, three day "extraordinary session" which gave the legislature the opportunity to extend certain executive orders of the Governor related to COVID-19. One topic which remains largely unresolved, is how to attract and retain healthcare workers. Senate Republicans called on the Governor to expend ARPA dollars for this purpose, but the Democrat Governor was unwilling. Virtual instruction was also discussed heavily and would be an area that subject matter experts could look to engage with the legislature on.”

Geopolitical



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with Susan

Susan Markham

Co-Founder and Partner, Smash Strategies

“In late August, the world was gripped by the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan. As other global and national events have occurred, it is important to not lose sight of the pressing issues faced, in particular, by women in Afghanistan. These include the need for humanitarian assistance, and edicts by the all-male Taliban government that women and girls cannot attend co-educational classes or play sports and that they must comply with a “mandatory Islamic dress code.” Just in the last few days, the Taliban spokesman dismissed the idea of women serving in Afghanistan’s new government by saying that they should focus on birthing and raising children. While Afghan women are taking to the streets in protest, it is important that the international community continue to support the human rights and humanitarian needs of those who remain in Afghanistan.”



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with Renata

Renata Amaral

Senior International Adviser, BMJ

“The Brazilian Government is still pushing for a comprehensive trade agreement with the U.S. in an attempt to expand negotiations that resulted in the Protocol signed in October 2020. This Protocol relating to Trade Rules and Transparency updates the 2011 Agreement on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ATEC) with three new annexes comprising provisions on Customs Administration and Trade Facilitation, Good Regulatory Practices, and Anticorruption. However, U.S. Congressional concerns about the Brazilian Government’s environmental and social record, in addition to the political crisis in the country, still complicate the outlook for any trade deal. It is hard to predict what is going to happen in Brazil within the following months while President Bolsonaro's approval rates continue to fall.

International Organizations



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Joanne Sonenshine

Founder and CEO, Connective Impact

“Today marks the start of the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly, which will run through the end of the month. We can expect to see global leaders once again promoting the value of public private partnerships in advancing global development goals and in solving problems of all types around the world. Whether through the United Nations, national focused institutions like USAID, or other forums, private sector engagement in public sector issues has never been more relevant and important for companies to develop a strategy around.”

Aerospace & Defense



The Honorable Bob Walker

CEO and Founder, MoonWalker Associates

"There is growing concern in the space community about the impact of the growing problem of space debris. The failure of Congress to provide authority to the Commerce Department to manage Space Situational Awareness (traffic management) is a large part of the problem. Focusing on the problem is essential because we risk losing future access to space and the United States could lose its status of international leadership in SSA."

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with Bob

Equity and Inclusion



Corey Arnez Griffin

CEO, 2GIP

"The 2020 US Census reveals that many major cities are undergoing significant demographic changes. How will these shifts impact local economies, small business and minority communities? Governments must lead to ensure that equity is at the center of growth strategies of these cities."

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with Corey

ESG



Steve Okun

CEO and Founder, APAC Advisors

"ESG in Action: By ensuring they do not engage in forced labor, Malaysia's Top Glove was cleared to resume doing business in the United States, highlighting the importance of US companies ensuring they have responsible supply chains."

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with Steve



Jay Hamilton

Chief Media Strategist, Hamilton Media DC

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with Jay

“Whenever presidents deal with a divided Congress, as is the case today - sending signals and interpreting their meaning is like reading tea leaves. A tea reader (yes, there is such a person) interprets patterns in leftover leaves in a cup of tea, using them to make predictions. Halfway through the first year of the Biden presidency, there are already a lot of leftovers to interpret and political pundits’ predictions are as divided as the electorate.

Last week, President Biden responded to Republican Governors who threatened legal action over his authority to mandate vaccinations this way: “Have at it.” With that simple phrase, President Biden may have found his voice. He went on to say, “I am so disappointed that particularly some Republican governors have been so cavalier with the health of these kids.”

Only history will be able to say for sure, but this may be a turning point. President Biden is not backing down on requiring vaccinations. It reminds me of the scene in *Network* when actor William Holden playing the anchor, looks into the camera and instead of reading the TelePrompTer asks his audience to open its windows and yell: “I’m as mad as hell and I’m not going to take this anymore.”

Biden’s remark, “Have at it,” says that mandating vaccinations is worth fighting for and he is willing to use the fullest extent of his executive powers to enforce it.

So, we’re left with a cliffhanger: Will the phrase “Have at it” rally citizens and members of congress to get up out of their chairs and cheer the president on; or, will they turn the channel and cancel the show? Tough talk alone will not begin to unite a divided country, but it’s a start for President Biden. Stay tuned...”