

Government Affairs

Forward Risk's Washington, DC-based government affairs team combines its direct experience supporting government affairs firms and political advocacy groups with a rigorous and creative approach to investigations and intelligence-gathering.

Developing an argument on behalf of policymakers, the media, or the general public requires both a full understanding of the relevant facts and cogent analysis, which collectively inform a compelling narrative. Our experienced, flexible, and highly savvy investigations team is here to help you identify key players, understand what makes policymakers tick, develop a fact-based messaging strategy, and contextualize complex issues.

The team is led by experienced and proven opposition researchers who formerly worked in key roles at the Democratic National Committee. The expertise of our campaign trail veterans has been further sharpened by extensive work on high-stakes corporate contests and contentious litigation matters, where we have grown accustomed to dealing with well-funded adversaries who use every possible resource to vie for an advantage.

How We Help

▶ **Developing an insider view on key policy matters**

Forward Risk helps advocacy groups, trade associations, and government affairs firms to develop winning arguments on policy issues. Success requires a sophisticated and nuanced understanding of the underlying topic as well as the different stakeholders involved, including their beliefs and priorities. Through legal and ethical means, we develop actionable intelligence and communications strategies that drive discussions with policymakers and advance the national interest.

▶ **Developing a fact-based foundation**

Regardless of the end goals of an advocacy engagement, Forward Risk always prioritizes detail-oriented, evidence-based research. This can range from conducting deep dive research

on specific policymaker positions to developing a broader contextual understanding of issues at hand. While every project has different parameters, this research can include analysis of political voting records and public statements, social media, and links between relevant issues and noteworthy figures and organizations.

▶ **Leveraging public records and human source inquiries**

Forward Risk's research typically includes a targeted review of pertinent open source and public record information, such as news and social media, court records, property records, and other available data. Drawing from our network of contacts and experience conducting human source inquiries, Forward Risk then engages in interviews with knowledgeable parties to further develop insights regarding key points.

Our Experience

► **Wide-Ranging International Investigation Into A High-Level Adversary**

Forward Risk was engaged by a government affairs firm to assist a client who was being harassed by a political opponent in a foreign country. Through weeks of meticulous research, including a deep dive into local-language media and public records in several countries, we uncovered a decades-

long track record of involvement in organized crime, money laundering, and public corruption. We developed both a detailed investigative report and a set of concise talking points to assist the government affairs firm in its discussions with key members of Congress.

The Forward Risk Difference

The Forward Risk team is a close-knit group of star performers dedicated to excelling in the investigative profession. We have diverse backgrounds but a shared commitment to providing industry-leading services, reinforced through the firm's extensive investments in knowledge sharing, training, and professional development. Our success comes from the intelligence, creativity, experience, sophistication, and tenacity of our investigators.

We listen to our clients. We don't try to shoehorn a complex investigation into a pre-defined package that can be mass-produced. Through understanding each client's concerns and goals, we tailor our research and our reporting to what is most actionable.

We devote time, resources, and care to our work. Where other firms may pressure investigators to prioritize speed over quality, we are absolutely committed to thoroughness, depth, accuracy, and proper analysis. This is how we build strong and long-lasting relationships with our clients.

Who We Are

Forward Risk is a corporate investigations, intelligence, and risk advisory firm that provides tailored investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. Our unique approach combines well-honed industry savvy with bespoke reporting to deliver value-driven information tailored to meet complex client needs. Staffed by a diverse team of professionals including former attorneys, investigative journalists, intelligence community alumni, and other government affairs experts, we help clients navigate transaction and dispute lifecycles by providing investigation and litigation support, investor due diligence, and strategic intelligence services. We marry comprehensive rigor to the curation of narrative context, which ensures that our clients receive actionable intelligence in the unique context of their specific engagement and objectives. Learn more about the unique strides Forward Risk takes in the investigative space at www.forwardrisk.com.

CONTACT

Forward Risk's Political Vetting and Opposition Research practice is helmed by Claire Vinocur and Chris Haxo. Claire's experience includes vetting political and administration hires and nominees, and led campaign finance research into candidates, committees, and outside groups. Chris has overseen research on key congressional and gubernatorial contests in over a dozen states, helping contribute to wins in California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Michigan, Minnesota, Illinois, and Maryland.

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