



## Scott C. Nelson

### Partner

Washington DC  
+1.202.778.9222

Portland  
+1.150.322.8320

[scott.nelson@klgates.com](mailto:scott.nelson@klgates.com)

## OVERVIEW

Scott Nelson has spent the last two decades working at the intersection of policy, politics, and law, working as senior staff to a U.S. Senator, a Governor, a political appointee in the federal executive branch, on several political campaigns, and as a lawyer and lobbyist in private practice.

His practice has most recently focused on helping clients with complex federal policy issues, including risk mitigation and tax provisions of the Affordable Care Act, international provisions and elements impacting trade in what became the Tax Cut and Jobs Act, and various environmental, energy, and infrastructure finance policy issues.

Scott is also a member of the K&L Gates political law and government ethics team. He has helped clients develop enterprise-wide compliance programs for lobbying disclosure and political engagement at the federal level and in many states. He has co-edited several editions of "A Guide to Political and Lobbying Activities," released periodically by K&L Gates.

Before returning to the private sector in 2014, Scott served as the jobs and economy policy advisor to Oregon Governor John Kitzhaber and was the policy director for the Governor's 2010 campaign and the campaign coordinator for the Governor's re-election in 2014. In the Governor's office, he managed the development and execution of the Governor's economic policy agenda, covering energy, tax, communications, consumer affairs, and economic development among other key policy issues.

Prior to joining the Governor's office, he previously spent nearly five years with K&L Gates, counseling clients on a range of regulatory and policy issues including tax, energy, trade, telecommunications, political law, and government ethics.

Before originally joining K&L Gates, Scott served on the staff and campaigns of U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan for several years, most recently as deputy chief of staff. He was also a political appointee in the Clinton administration at the U.S. Department of Energy. During law school, he was legal fellow in Governor Mark Warner's office and a work-study clerk at the U.S. Attorney's Office, Western District of Virginia. Scott grew up in Corvallis, Oregon.

## PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the firm, Scott was a principal/partner at his own law firm based in Washington, D.C. and Portland, Oregon. In addition, he worked for Governor John Kitzhaber of Salem, Oregon as a jobs and economy policy advisor and policy director from 2010-2014. Scott was an associate in the firm's Washington, D.C. and Portland offices for more than four years.

## EDUCATION

- J.D., University of Virginia School of Law, 2004
- B.A., Carleton College, 1997 *magna cum laude*

## ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Oregon

## THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 2 December 2020, After the Election: What Can and Will Get Done? (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 12 August 2020, Biden Proposals - The Big Picture (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 2 July 2020, COVID-19: Renewed and Unique Opportunity for Fishing Industry in Paycheck Protection Program (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 24 March 2020, COVID-19: Political Outlook for Phase 3 and Phase 4 COVID-19 Response (*Webinar*)
- 25 September 2019, In the Weeds: House Moves Toward Opening Banks to Cannabis-Related Legitimate Businesses (*Alerts/Updates*)
- February 2019, A Guide to Political and Lobbying Activities (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 26 September 2018, "Dark Money" Gets a Little Light: *CREW v. FEC* and Its Implications for the 2018 Midterms (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 17 April 2018, European Commission Introduces Bold New Tax Plan for the Digital Economy (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 6 November 2017, No Longer FARA-way: Heightened Exposure of the Foreign Agent Registration Act (*Alerts/Updates*)

## NEWS & EVENTS

- 29 April 2021, Building Resilient Infrastructure for a Thriving Pacific Northwest, hosted by Washington Council on International Trade (*Event*)

- 5 March 2021, K&L Gates Names 31 New Partners Across Global Platform (*Press Release*)
- 3 October 2017, K&L Gates Welcomes Returning Public Policy and Law Of Counsel in Washington, D.C., and Portland Offices (*Press Release*)

## AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Corporate Tax
- Environment, Land, and Natural Resources
- Fisheries and Aquaculture
- Health Care and FDA
- International Trade: CFIUS, Sanctions, and Export Controls
- Nonprofit Organizations