



Michael J. O'Neil

Of Counsel

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OVERVIEW

Mike O'Neil's practice focuses on international trade, national security, information technology, privacy, and federal policy. He advises foreign and domestic clients on both regulatory and legislative solutions. His work involves counseling U.S. and foreign parties on investment in the United States, and assisting a range of U.S. clients on critical infrastructure protection, privacy, trade compliance, and Congressional investigations.

Mike has had a distinguished public service career in defense and intelligence matters and has served in positions in the Central Intelligence Agency, the Department of Defense, and the U.S. House of Representatives.

Immediately prior to joining the firm, Mike served as the general counsel of the Central Intelligence Agency. In this position he was responsible for the conduct of all legal affairs of the Agency. He also served as the chief of staff of the Agency, where he coordinated the legislative and public affairs strategy and acted as the Agency's liaison to the National Security Council and Intelligence Community agencies.

In 1995, Mike served as the counselor to the secretary and deputy secretary of defense. In this position he advised the secretary and deputy secretary on policy, organizational, and legislative matters. From 1989 to 1994, he served as the counsel to the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Thomas S. Foley (D-WA). In addition to advising the speaker on all legal and national security issues, he acted as liaison to foreign embassies and U.S. national security agencies. Before his work for the speaker, Mike served as the chief counsel to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence from 1977 to 1989.

Mike is the recipient of the Distinguished Intelligence Medal, the highest honor awarded by the Central Intelligence Agency, and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He was also included in the 2015 "Top 10 List" of U.S. Commercial Litigation lawyers by United States Lawyers Rankings.

EDUCATION

- LL.M., Georgetown University Law Center, 1976 *Tax*
- M.Sc., London School of Economics and Political Science, 1973
- J.D., Georgetown University Law Center, 1971

- B.A., College of the Holy Cross, 1968

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of District of Columbia
- Bar of Ohio (Inactive)

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP POWERED BY HUB

- 17 December 2020, Increased FARA Enforcement Is Here to Stay - A Debrief on ACI's Second National Forum on FARA (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 20 May 2020, U.S. Raises Bar for Sanctions Compliance in Maritime, Energy, and Metals Sectors (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 20 March 2020, Recent Actions By CFIUS Underscore Importance of Review Process (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 24 January 2020, Treasury Issues Final Regulations Revamping CFIUS Authority (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 7 May 2019, Prominent Divestiture Orders Demonstrate CFIUS's Focus on Access to Sensitive Personal Data as a National Security Concern (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 9 April 2019, Next Massachusetts Offshore Wind Solicitation Ready for DPU Review (*BlogPost*)
- 8 April 2019, Congressional Investigations 101: Get Professional Help (*Podcast*)
- 5 February 2019, Trump Administration Sanctions Venezuela's State-Owned Oil Company PdVSA (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 19 December 2018, Winds of Change (*BlogPost*)
- 14 November 2018, Congressional Investigations 101 (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 8 December 2017, New York Signals Continued Support for Energy Storage as Governor Signs Procurement Target Legislation (*BlogPost*)
- 6 November 2017, No Longer FARA-way: Heightened Exposure of the Foreign Agent Registration Act (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 23 October 2017, Iran Nuclear Deal "Decertified" Although Impact Is Uncertain (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 16 October 2017, Comprehensive Embargo on Sudan Lifted, Although Some Restrictions Remain (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 28 August 2017, Significant New Russia, Iran and North Korea Sanctions Legislation Signed Into Law (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 4 August 2017, FERC Welcomes New Commissioners, Quorum Restored (*BlogPost*)

- 18 May 2017, Massachusetts Utility Takes Novel Approach to Increased Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (*BlogPost*)
- 27 March 2017, MassCEC Solicits Proposals for Innovative Energy Storage Uses Cases and Business Models (*BlogPost*)
- 16 March 2017, Developers Submit Unsolicited Requests for Wind Leases Offshore Massachusetts and New York (*BlogPost*)
- 22 February 2017, You're Hired: President Trump Introduces Ethics Pledge For His Appointees With Serious Departures from Obama's Ethics Pledge (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 21 December 2016, FERC Issues Notice of Inquiry on Income Tax Allowance Policy Statement and ROE Methodology (*BlogPost*)
- 9 December 2016, New Executive Branch Gift Rules Released: New Action Required Before Executive Officials Can Attend Banquet Dinners (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 6 September 2016, Looking to Hire an Obama Appointee? What You Need to Know About the New OGE Rules on the Recruiting of Federal Employees (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 12 July 2016, Privacy Shield Approved: New Legal Framework for Transatlantic Data Transfers (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 8 July 2016, Even Though the Supremes Vacated Former Governor McDonnell's Bribery Conviction, Don't Even Think of Ditching Your Ethics Compliance Program (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 1 March 2016, EU-US Privacy Shield Released (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 4 February 2016, The New EU-US Privacy Shield: a New Deal on Personal Data Transfers (*BlogPost*)
- 3 February 2016, New EU-US Privacy Shield (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 2 October 2015, Recent Settlements Signal Increased Political Law Enforcement by Government Officials (*Alerts/Updates*)
- 8 June 2015, Ferry Service Between The United States And Cuba—Imminent Or Not? (*Alerts/Updates*)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Co-Author, CEQ Issues Final Greenhouse Gas Guidance Directing Federal Agencies to Consider Climate Change in Their NEPA Reviews, *Pratt's Energy Law Report*, Vol. 16-9, October 2016
- Contributor, "FERC Manual: A Guide for Local Distribution Companies," American Gas Association, 2013 and 2014 Editions.
- Co-author, "Role of U.S. LNG in the Global Marketplace," *53 Infrastructure* 4

NEWS & EVENTS

- 20 April 2016, K&L Gates Secures Death Benefits for Family of Contractor Killed in Benghazi Attack
(*Noteworthy Work, Press Release*)

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Public Policy and Law
- Government and Public Procurement
- International Trade: CFIUS, Sanctions, and Export Controls
- Maritime Compliance
- Maritime Transactions and Finance
- U.S. Congressional Investigations
- U.S. National Security Law and Policy

INDUSTRIES

- Cybersecurity and Privacy
- Technology